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SOCCER

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WEEKLY

BEIJING BID TO PLAY OLYMPIC SIDE



China's Olympic coach Rudi Gutendorf congratulated by fans after a recent win over Hong Kong

CHINA WANTS GAMES

BY TOM ANDERSON

CHINA is seeking to re-establish soccer relations with Australia and wants to play our Olympic Games side.

An approach in this direction was made last week by China's new Olympic squad boss and former Soccerroo coach Rudi Gutendorf.

However, the initial bid struck an immediate hitch, as Gutendorf wanted games scheduled for early next month, as a warmup for China's coming Olympic qualifiers in North Korea.

He was informed by coach Thomson that this was impossible because of a pending tour of Europe by the Australian Olympic squad.

Both coaches will now report back to their Federations and the dialogue will continue.

The ASF is now expected to discuss the proposal in the coming weeks.

What ABSW says . . .

THE need for a 'Players Association' to protect and further the interests of the professionals playing in the NSL under the auspices of the ASF has now arrived.

Such an innovation has been mooted many times in the past, but has always floundered.

But now, under the new structure of the ASF, the time has come for the players' interests to be tended to by their own elected representatives.

The time has now gone when individual players have to stand up and fight for their own rights and the players must unite if they are to gain a fair crack of the whip.

Especially in the area of transfer fees, contractual rights and proper professional conditions.

It has been alleged that the ASF intend to 'buy out' the contracts of the national team players in order to install a full-time national team setup in preparation for the 1994 World Cup.

For players to enter into such a deal without being properly organised and without watertight contracts would be completely irresponsible on their part and could bring big problems.

For there have been serious problems in ASF-national team relations in the past and nothing seems to have changed

in the administrative setup.

Our soccer setup is still dominated by amateur administrators with soccer their 'hobby', even though they are well meaning and have the game at heart.

A 'Players Association' would not be a divisive organisation, but rather an organisation which would safeguard the players and have a professional relationship between them and the ASF.

It would also be for the better and would help bring true professionalism to our game.

THE EDITOR

Vics to woo crowds!

BY GREG BLAKE

IN an attempt to win back dwindling support, the Victorian Soccer Federation is likely to revert to a January kick-off for its Premier League competition in 1992.

Other changes suggested for Victorian competition include a top-five play-off to decide the championship and a national play-off between state champions from around the country.

The suggested changes were discussed at club level last Tuesday night and will be considered at a VSF Board of Management meeting tonight (Tuesday).

Also under consideration is the NSL 'guest player' situation, with the likelihood of a limitation of two NSL players being allowed to guest for Premier League clubs in the 1992 season.

The possibility of a January kick-off for the Premier League is seen as a the short-term solution to dropping attendance figures.

An early start to the season also means that the Premier League will be able to accommodate a full-scale top five series, with the end-of-season grand final winner being declared state champion.

It will be the first time in 33 years of VSF history that the first-past-the-post system has not

decided the title.

In another expected change, play-offs between the various state champions are expected to return for the first time since the early 1970s.

The play-offs between the champions, a tangible reward for winning the state title, will commence this year in limited form.

For this season the series is likely to be limited to a home-and-away play-off between the state champions of Victoria and NSW.

The NSWFSF has already responded favourably to the Victorian initiative and the matches between the respective state champions are likely to be played in September.

The series could be extended to include SA, Tasmania and Queensland winners for 1992.

Victorian Premier League chairman Joe Caruso believes the revamp of the state competition is long overdue.

"It must not be seen as us crossing into NSL territory", said Caruso of the proposed early kick-off.

"In Melbourne there will be only four NSL teams, meaning two games each weekend.

"We will be doing our best to work in with the NSL, in that if, for example, there are finals in Melbourne, the Premier League will support the NSL as it did this year.

"The main reason we are considering this is that we still have a lack of quality facilities at Premier League clubs.

"Very few clubs have the necessary facilities, so we are attempting to draw the crowds back during summer when people do not have to be concerned with standing in the rain and mud".

Caruso said the post-season play-offs between the state champions was the ideal way to reward the respective league champions, with gate money for the ga-

mes going to the clubs in a home-and-away series.

"NSW initially wanted a one-off match this year but, with a home-and-away series, both clubs get the chance of making gate money in lieu of prizemoney for winning the league", Caruso explained.

"At this stage we envisage the games being played at the home grounds of the respective clubs and the VSF will meet the bill of sending the Victorian champions to the away leg in Sydney.

"There is certainly the possibility of extending the series (to include other states) and personally I would like to see that happen".

The VSF has also declared its intention to crack down on teams not prepared to upgrade facilities.

As from this season, no club, regardless of its final league position, will be considered for promotion to a higher grade unless its facilities meet the specific criteria set down for that competition.

The two-up, two-down ruling which governs the Victorian leagues will only cover clubs prepared to meet the criteria of the higher grade, with the possibility of play-offs deciding promotion if any club finishing first or second in a competition cannot make the grade.

If a club doesn't meet requirements, it is up to the VSF board to decide the allocation of clubs to meet league vacancies.

But Caruso confirmed that a play-off system might be required to decide promotion in some competitions.

If, for example, one of the top two clubs in any league does not meet the required standard, the next club down, in ladder order, to meet requirements could be given the chance to play-off for a place in the higher grade against the third-bottom team in the more senior grade.

Now it's Vidmar!



AURELIO VIDMAR

THE shock departure of Socceroo star Aurelio Vidmar to Belgium has left Adelaide City with a player poser for the new NSL season in October.

"We have two options if we want to remain competitive with the top teams in the competition," coach Zoran Matic said.

"We either can stay with our youngsters and slowly get to where we deserve to be in the League or go out and buy a player to help fill the gap.

"It is not an easy one. We shall sit down and talk things over thoroughly before making a decision."

Vidmar left SA last week in a hush-hush move to Belgian First

Division club Ekeren. He should stay there if he impresses in trial and a suitable transfer or loan arrangement can be settled.

Even with the regained fitness of Joe Mullen and Ernie Tapai to boost selections, versatile Vidmar's departure leaves a huge hole in the City line-up.

The club was thought to be keen to keep recruiting to a minimum for the new season but Vidmar's move may alter that.

City, too, now will have to step up its bid to re-sign the remainder of its squad.

Coach Zoran Matic will be studying his options before making the decision he feels will see City competitive among

the NSL big guns.

If Vidmar is transferred Matic, at least, should have cash with which to bargain for players.

"Something has to be done sooner or later about the players going from Australia overseas," Matic said. "Australia as a whole, not just our club, is becoming an easy target for cheaper players. I don't want to stop players going. It is good for soccer in this country to see our players making it overseas. But clubs here have to be compensated."

"Many people work part-time here to help bring on this young talent. Their long hard work has to be rewarded too."

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P.O. BOX 406 BROADWAY NSW 2007

* Tel: (02) 660 2033 * FAX: (02) 692 0649

* TELE: AA22141

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EDITOR: Tom Anderson
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Lou Gautier
MELBOURNE EDITOR: Greg Blake
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Maurizio Pagnin
CADET: Saily Chant

ADVERTISING:
Sydney: John Economos (02) 660 2033
Melbourne: Greg Blake (03) 663 4411.
VICTORIAN OFFICE: 2nd Floor, 276 Russell St, Melbourne 3000.

Telephone: (03) 663 4411

FAX: (03) 663 1204

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Old King Cole could be merry

BY GREG BLAKE

FORMER NSL goal scoring legend, Gary Cole, has taken over the coaching reigns at Heidelberg for the 1991-92 season.

Olympic Village officials have been chasing Cole for a fortnight, following the news that Len McKendry had ended his association with the club.

Cole, the most prolific goalscorer in Heidelberg's history, is currently living in Canberra and has been working as an assistant to Ron Smith at the AIS for a number of years.

Known as 'Goal King Cole' during his playing days, the bullocking blond with an awesome burst of speed is revered by Heidelberg fans and his appointment has been gre-

eted favourably at Olympic Village.

Cole met with club officials ten days ago and he made his decision late last week.

"He is happy with the set-up and with the team and we are very happy getting his services", said a club official.

In other Victorian NSL news, the move of Sunshine George Cross star Gary Hasler to South Melbourne Hellas has been put on hold after a dispute over the transfer fee.

Hasler, who has just returned from a trip to Scotland — where he attracted interest from St Mirren and Kilmarnock, was to have signed with the reigning NSL champions last Wednesday.

But George Cross claims his existing contract, which specifies a

transfer maximum of \$13,500, is null and void because the club was relegated from the NSL.

Georgie is looking to pick up \$20,000 for Hasler, if the club is prepared to release him at all.

Hasler has been told he can play with Hellas on loan next season, a move Hasler himself says is not satisfactory.

Melbourne Croatia and Sydney Olympic have also expressed interest in the extroverted young striker but Hellas is keen to have him signed, sealed and delivered in time for the club's tour to Greece, which commences on July 24.

Hasler has been promised a recall to the Australian Olympic team for its European tour later this year providing he is back and playing NSL standard football by that time.



GARY COLE IN ACTION FOR HEIDELBERG

Joeys on target

The Australian Under-17 national team defeated a Tasmanian Under-21 selection 3-1 at KGV Soccer Park in Glenorchy last week.

The Tasmanians opened strongly and took the lead through a 23rd-minuted penalty by Brendan Lakoseljac.

Then Vasko

Trpceviski set up Alex Kiratzoglou, who scored with a low drive for the Australian team.

Trpceviski almost gave Australia the lead on the stroke of half-time when he glided past two defenders on the left, but Tasmanian goalkeeper Frank Mainella blocked his angled shot.

The Joeys hit the front six minutes after

the interval with Aaron Healey heading home Paul Dee's free kick.

Paul Agostino sealed the game for Australia in the 70th minute when he finished off a David Thomas cross from the right.

Fabio Macolino, the star of the match in midfield, almost capped off his brilliant display for the Joeys with a goal in the final minute when he cheekily chipped the ball over the goalkeeper, but Tasmanian defender Drew McNeill headed off the line.

The 23-man Joey squad spent last week in Tasmania.

Coach Les Scheinflug will reduce the squad to 16 this week as the teams get ready for the World Cup in Italy which starts on August 6.

OLYMPICS

BY LOU GAUTIER

A reminder that the next match in the Oceania Olympic qualifying group will be on October 19 between Papua New Guinea and Australia in Port Moresby.

Three matches have been played so far in the group, all involving Australia at home.

The Aussies, as you will recall, won them all — at Olympic Park, Melbourne — in May.

Below, we publish results to date and dates of upcoming group matches:

- 19. 5.91 Australia v Papua New Guinea 4-0
- 22. 5.91 Australia v New Zealand 2-0
- 26. 5.91 Australia v Fiji 7-0
- 19.10.91 Papua New Guinea v Australia
- 28.10.91 New Zealand v Fiji
- 2.11.91 Papua New Guinea v Fiji
- 6.11.91 Papua New Guinea v New Zealand
- 9.11.91 Fiji v New Zealand
- 13.11.91 Fiji v Papua New Guinea
- 16.11.91 New Zealand v Papua New Guinea
- 18.11.91 Fiji v Australia
- 23.11.91 New Zealand v Australia

The Oceania winner will have to play off with Israel if they win their European qualifying group, which also includes Sweden and Greece, or if another country wins that group, the fifth placed side from the European play-offs, in which the top four countries qualify automatically for Barcelona next year.

And we also remind readers that the Olympics, for the first time, are only open to players who will be aged under 23 years when the Games kick off in Spain in July 1992.

Australia will have to play their away qualifiers in Oceania without Paul Okon, now in Belgium.

Of the Young Socceroo squad which did so well in Portugal, David Seal and Lorenz Kindtner appear certain to be included, as could Mark Bosnich if his passport problems in England are not sorted out.

The door is open!

THE ASF is ready to issue an immediate invitation to South Africa to send its national team to

Australia.

John Constantine, the Australian Soccer Federation chairman, said the prospects of a South African team

visiting Australia had already been discussed with FIFA.

"While we were in Portugal with the Australian Under 20 team recently we held talks with FIFA president Dr Joao Havelange and secretary general Blatter about the South African situation," said Constantine.

"They said FIFA is considering re-admitting South Africa but we can't anticipate that readmission.

"Until it happens, it would be outside our authority to extend an invitation."

Constantine's comments followed the decision by the IOC to readmit South Africa to international competition with the possibility of the Republic competing in the Winter Games in Albertville and the Olympics at Barcelona next year.

The two nations have met 14 times — the last time in 1955 — with

Australia having been successful once at home and twice in South Africa.

"As soon as we hear from FIFA that South Africa has been welcomed back there will not be any problem in issuing an invitation to tour here," said Constantine.

"I'm not concerned about any racial problems because soccer in South Africa has really been one of the few sports to be fully integrated.

"They have so many fine black players and we'll be happy to welcome them once FIFA says the bans are lifted."

Soccer is by far the biggest sport in South Africa, but to listen to the Australian media you would never know it.

Cricket and rugby just don't rate with the country's Blacks — a whopping 80 per cent of the total population.

Women wow them

The qualifying tournament for the first FIFA Women's World Championships was a sensational success with the fans.

At the preliminary competition for the North and Central American region and the Caribbean (CONCACAF) in Port-au-Prince (Haiti), crowds of up to 40,000 spectators were recorded.

The tournament had a total turnout of 250,000 spectators who watched the American girls sail through confidently.

Brazil made it to the final competition in China after a round robin qualifying tournament among Brazil, Chile and Venezuela, held in Maringa (in the Brazilian province of Parana). Brazil put on the best display by far and won the tournament with a goal average of 12-1.

The crowd turnout for the matches in Brazil was equally staggering: 33,000 spectators watched the last encounter between Brazil and Venezuela, while the other matches pulled 34,000 fans into the stadia.

In the African region, Nigeria qualified with a final scoreline of 7-0 against Guinea, while Cameroon went straight through to the final competition after Zambia withdrew.

The inaugural Women's World Cup, fully sponsored by FIFA, will be staged in China in November.

Australia, of course, will be absent after losing the Oceania qualifying berth of our nemesis, New Zealand.

THE HEART



Malgioglio at work in goal

AT Inter Milan he is the number two in football behind Walter Zenga.

In his spare time, he devotes himself to handicapped children.

Astuttillo Malgioglio, the substitute goalie for Inter Milan, says "I need football to make a living. I need my work with handicapped children to give my life meaning".

So 33-year-old Astuttillo Malgioglio with the nickname "Tito" lives in two completely different worlds.

On the one hand, in the world of the football professional which abounds with egocentric and spoiled stars and on the other hand, in the world of the underprivileged, the world of physically and mentally handicapped children.

The small village of

Appiano Gentile is situated along the motorway from Milan to Como, not far away from the Swiss border, La Pinetina — a park with guards keeping watch on the villas and flats, the golf course and training ground for Internazionale Milan.

The whole area is enclosed and closely guarded. Fans stand behind locked gates to watch admiringly from a distance how their stars train.

One of the players training in La Pinetina is Astuttillo Malgioglio. He "works" with Walter Zenga, the Italian national goalkeeper and Luciano Bodini.

Bodini is Inter's third ranked goalie. He used to play for Juventus and Verona and has been hanging on for two years at Inter as their "iron substitute". The

goalkeepers' coach is also a celebrity: Luciano Castellini, who used to guard goal with Turin and Naples and was for years the number two in Italy's national team behind the legendary Dino Zoff.

Work

The small town of Piacenza is close to the motorway leading from Milan to Bologna.

In Via Rapetti on the outskirts of Piacenza, a hoarding on a recently built block of flats displays the wording "ERA 77 di Tito Malgioglio".

There is a gymnasium on the ground floor with clothes lockers, showers and toilets.

But ERA 77 is no fitness club. ERA 77 is a therapeutic and rehabilitation centre for handicapped children.

Here you can find the qualified physiotherapist and remedial worker, Tito Malgioglio, and his wife, Raffaella.

They work with outsiders, with society's underprivileged, with mentally and physically handicapped children.

Funds

"I constantly commute between two worlds," says Tito Malgioglio about himself and his two quite different working environments.

"But I need both worlds. Football to earn my money, my work with the handicapped to give me fulfilment and contentment and the satisfaction of knowing that I am doing something worthwhile."

And that is why he trains in La Pinetina and earns a living as a professional player even though he does not quite fit in the world of the ball star. Football in Italy is a perpetual media hullabaloo, a series of sensations about stars and their escapades and a source of vast sums of money.

Football is an essential part of public life in Italy but not all its accompanying phenomena are desirable. "I am an outsider in football," says Tito Malgioglio, "But thanks to my profession as a footballer I can change and improve the lives of the handicapped."

Private

When Giovanni Trapattoni summoned him from Lazio Rome to Milan five years ago he was able to open his own centre in Piacenza.

Coach Trapattoni and Inter's management supported his social work by donating the takings from several

friendly matches per season towards his therapeutic work.

This enabled him to install his gymnasium and to keep treatment fees at a minimum. He and his wife between them take care of 40 children.

A child's four to eight hours of treatment per month cost the parents a mere \$4,000.

ERA 77 receives no state benefits. Malgioglio's income as a footballer and the contributions of Inter Milan alone finance the centre.

"I never had to discuss money at Inter," he says, "the club simply prolonged my contract from year to year."

Children

The children Malgioglio treats in Piacenza have to be carried bodily from their parents' cars into the gym.

These are children who cannot walk, who can barely sit. The twelve-year-old Maria, who has been attending his centre for three years, is a striking example of his achievements.

"She had to learn bit by bit how to master each movement and build up each muscle. She can now sit unaided and is learning to use her own hands."

That is his description of the therapy he carries out on "his" children.

The children also learn to become part of a group at the centre which is an important step in preparing them for later detachment from their parents and entry into kindergarten, school or a training workshop.

In fact the Malgioglios have just opened a workshop in Piacenza. "I shall only go on playing football if I can stay with Inter Milan," says Tito about his future.

"In any case I do not intend to go further away than Milan. I would rather stop playing than do that. I have got enough to keep me busy here in Piacenza at the centre and in the workshop."

The two worlds of Tito Malgioglio



ASTUTILLO (Tito) Malgioglio was born in Piacenza on May 3, 1958.

His goalkeeping career also began in Piacenza before he transferred to neighbouring US Cremonese. As an eighteen-year-old youth goalkeeper he already played his first "A" match for Bologna.

The next stops along his footballing path were Brescia, Pistoia, Rome and Lazio Rome. In 1986 coach Giovanni Trapattoni called him to Internazionale Milan as substitute goalkeeper.


Second in line to national goalkeeper Walter Zenga, he is in his fifth season at the powerful Inter Milan club.

Tito Malgioglio has been married for fourteen years to Raffaella. Their daughter Elena is thirteen.

The Malgioglio family lives in a renovated farmhouse on the outskirts of Piacenza.

In a suburb of Piacenza he and his wife run ERA 77, a rehabilitation centre for handicapped children. They also rent a large workshop in the centre of Piacenza where Tito runs courses on crafts and technical subjects for the handicapped to equip them for integration in everyday working life.

Both of Tito Malgioglio's aid institutions are run and financed privately.



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OF SOCCER

Giovanni Trapattoni about his longstanding reserve goalkeeper

"Tito Malgioglio is more than a goalie"

Giovanni Trapattoni, what made you pick Tito Malgioglio?

When I changed from Juventus to Inter the national goalkeeper Walter Zenga was number one goalkeeper.

I was looking for a reserve who would be compatible with Zenga and the whole team.

But why Malgioglio?

I had seen him in several matches and he already had a few years' experience in the A division.

I could tell that he was a technically very good goalkeeper and some other coaches I asked fully agreed with me.

Were those your only



GIOVANNI TRAPATTONI

reasons?

No, there was a more

important reasons. Be-

side Zenga I needed a

well-balanced and steady sort of second man. I wanted a player who would contribute something to the team spirit as well as someone who would set a good moral example to the others.

Does Malgioglio fulfil this role?

Yes, of course. His unselfish concern for the welfare of handicapped children makes a huge impression on all the players and from the human aspect they regard him not only as a paragon of virtue but as their leader.

What does this role actually consist of?

Malgioglio is unsurpassable at inspiring and encouraging the team. He is sensitive and feels the slightest change of mood at once.

During training sessions and even during matches from the reserves' bench he manages time and again to exert a positive influence on his team-mates and to spur them on.

It is principally due to Malgioglio that we have such a good atmosphere in the Inter squad.

Are you not underestimating your own influence as coach?

No, the coach is never a direct part of the team. For the players I am the "Mister" and that alone creates a certain reserve between us.

But Malgioglio is one of them. Someone they admire and respect. His example of altruism enormously impresses the frequently indulged and idolised stars.

Players usually tend to laugh at reserves...

That is certainly not the case at Inter. When an Inter player scores a decisive goal and runs jubilantly to the touchline, you can be sure the first person to be hugged will be Malgioglio.

Even the supporters, the much feared fans from the "Curva Nord" chant his name in praise. For a reserve player that is of course most uncommon and just goes to show what a pillar of strength he is to Inter.

Will Malgioglio stay at Inter?

No, he is going to move. Ancona want him and we have agreed to let him go and he will play there. At Ancona at least he will be assured of a first team berth.

Not so good Dutch game!



Ruud Gullit

It is a sad fact that racism directed at black soccer players is a daily occurrence in European soccer. It has been a problem in Britain for many years, but it is an increasing problem in the Netherlands, where the big-city clubs have recruited numerous black immigrants from the Caribbean island of the Antilles and Suriname (Dutch) Guyana on the South American coast.

The problem of racial insults directed at black players from opposing players, fans and coaches has gotten so bad that, according to the Paris newspaper *Liberation*, the Dutch soccer federation (KNVB) has proposed introducing a "blue card" to indicate that a player is being ejected for making racial insults. The problem of racism in Dutch soccer has set off a heated debate in Dutch government circles. When a Dutch parliament deputy from the island of the Moluccas charged that the KNVB was not reacting fast enough to the problem, Dutch justice minister Hirsch Ballin announced that the Dutch government would look into the situation.

For their part, KNVB officials said they were not delaying. They noted that any measures could not be implemented until next season, but they said they did hope to introduce the blue card.

The most famous black players from the Netherlands are AC Milan stars Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard, but there are many others earning a livelihood with Dutch pro

clubs. Feyenoord, the big Rotterdam club, has seven Suriname immigrants on its roster, while Ajax, from

Amsterdam, starts four blacks, all of them Dutch internationals: goalie Stanley Menzo, defender Marciano Vink, midfielder Aron Winter and striker Bryan Roy, the rising star of the Dutch national team.

Racial remarks Thijs Libregts allegedly made in private about Gullit and Rijkaard led to his ouster as Dutch national team coach only months before Italia '90. A group of German fans taunted Rijkaard and Gullit during the World Cup second round match between West Germany and the Netherlands in Milan by imitating the cries of a chimpanzee when the Dutch stars touched the ball. Such cries were again directed at Gullit when the Netherlands travelled to Portugal for a European Championship qualifier last fall.

When Frits Korbach, the head coach of First Division club Herenveen, called Menzo a "filthy black" on Dutch television, he was hauled before a KNVB tribunal, which was then itself criticized for its laxity in handing Korbach a one month suspended sentence and a \$160 fine.

Unfortunately, the problem isn't limited to top level Dutch soccer. A recent survey of immigrant athletes in The Hague revealed that 33% of black and Moslem athletes said they had been the target of insults from opposing players, fans and even referees.



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TORWARHANDSCHUHE



At work with the kids



MALGIOGLIO and ZENGA



AUSTRALIA'S TURN NEXT

THE next Youth World Cup in Australia will be staged in March 1993.

When Australia last staged the event, in 1981, the tournament was held in October.

The Australian Soccer Federation was given permission by FIFA last week to conduct the series in March despite some misgivings from European countries who had a preference for July.

The March date will mean that the 1992/93 NSL season will have to start one month earlier as the grand final must be played before March 15, when the 1993 World Cup is due to kick off.

FIFA official Julio Grondina will head a delegation to Australia next March to approve venues, organisation and all other details.

Former NSW Federation general manager Ian Holmes is in charge of the organisation for the 1993 Youth World Cup.

He spent lots of time in

\$5 million Soccerroo star Frank Farina scoring his last goal for FC Brugge in the Belgian Cup Final against Mechelen — Brugge won 3-0.

Now after a short break at home in Australia, Frank will join his new Italian First Division club Bari as they start their pre-season training.

Frank says he is looking forward to his new career in Italy and hopes to score a bag full of goals!

Portugal with local organisers and is confident Australia can do even better than Portugal next time to justify FIFA's faith in Australia, the only country ever asked to stage two youth finals.

Holmes has talked the ASF into staging a youth tournament before the next World Cup as a full dress rehearsal for the event.

Portugal have been invited and the ASF hopes to also lure a top Asian and African under 20 national side for a four to six-team international tournament.

— LOU GAUTIER



It's curious

LEADING AFL (Aussie rules) goalkicker Peter Sumich has paid soccer a curious tribute.

The West Coast Eagles goalkicker, who is currently second on the AFL goalkicking chart with 65 for the 1991 season, has said that he honed his accurate kicking skills by playing soccer.

Sumich played junior soccer in Perth with Spearwood Dalmatians before, switching to the oval ball in his early teenage years.

And he says the way he kicks with such accuracy is because of his soccer upbringing.

"I played in midfield and used to take all the

corner kicks", he revealed recently.

"I loved to try and curl the ball in from the corner flag.

"The way you kick a soccer ball has certainly influenced the way I kick the ball in football".

Sumich still retains a great admiration for soccer, enjoying the occasional sessions of soccer organised by Eagles coach Mick Malthouse.

"We play soccer to give us a bit of variation in our training", Sumich explained.

"I think soccer's good to help you with your speed, checking and turning.

"It's a great game which requires a great deal of skill to control the ball properly".

PRAISE FOR ZELIC, ROOS

Writing in his regular column in the prestigious World Soccer monthly, former England great Trevor Brooking is complimentary to Australian soccer and to the Soccerroos.

On England's end of season tour Down Under and to Malaysia, Brooking writes:

"The opening match against Australia was the hardest of the tour.

"The Aussies had some promising performances from Ned Zelic, Ian Gray and the Vidmar brothers.

"Sweeper Zelic looks a prospect at 19 and it was good to see him possessing the confidence to spread out the play out of defence.

"Australia matched England for fitness and aggression and were a trifle unlucky to concede a soft own goal from a goalkeeping mistake."

Centre of Soccer's World

New York City will be the centre of the Soccer World on December 8.

That's when FIFA will produce the qualifying draw for the 1994 World Cup.

The draw ceremony divides the expected 120 nations entering the World Cup into qualifying rounds by continent. The qualifiers will reduce the field to 22. The US, as host and Germany, as defending champion, are automatic qualifiers.

Keeping Busy

Bora Milutinovic is about to spend more time travelling than President George Bush.

The US coach has secured a European tour for his American side in August and September.

The US, which is already in the middle of a world-class 12-game home series, will play the Soviet Union in Moscow on August 17, Romania in Bucharest on August 28 and Turkey in Istanbul on September 4.

NSL

The NSL draw for the new season has been finalised and sent to clubs for their appraisal.

This was disclosed by NSL general manager Peter Russell.

The NSL boss expects the draw to be released for publication within a week or so.

Russell is also working overtime to draw up a new format and playing schedule for the NSL Cup.



BY GREG BLAKE

Congratulations from fans for ABSW's coverage of the thrilling World Youth Championships have flooded both the Sydney and Melbourne offices.

The staff of ABSW appreciates the feedback.

In attempting to follow the fortunes of Australia's magnificent young Soccerroos, ABSW has tried to do justice to one of this country's greatest sporting teams.

This newspaper has done its utmost to give those brave youngsters the profile perhaps denied them by the so-called mainstream media.

With that in mind, ABSW has seemingly won its battle.

Victorian soccer fans have been particularly glowing in their praises, with the comments of a spokesman from Victorian Premier League club Mooroolbark, Ray Sanders, summing up our contribution to the Portugal campaign.

"Congratulations ABSW on your coverage

of the World Youth Cup", said Sanders.

"Your headlines on the front page (25-6-91) gave the young Aussies the credit they deserve.

"Their names will be etched in Australian football history.

"What a pity other daily papers missed out.

"I bet other newspapers around the world would have splashed it on their front pages.

"Victorians love all kinds of sport and one would have expected the two major Melbourne papers to follow ABSW's example.

"Let's hope that when they return home the media gives them the recognition they deserve".

From the staff of ABSW, to all those who took the time to write or phone, we say thanks.

It's nice to know we are appreciated.

NSL club Sydney Croatia has a new president.

He is Tony Topic who was elected last weekend.

Topic, is also a past president of Croatia and has a wealth of experience in the game.

SOLICITORS

Our firm specialises in all legal matters involving the soccer code, and including:

- Playing being cited for infringements
- Clubs being cited for bringing the game into disrepute
- Appearing before the Tribunals and Committees of the State and National Leagues
- Other general matters; (Criminal/Family/Compensation/Conveyancing)

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FAX: 597 1749

Ask for: Andrew Smyrnis or Mario DiLizio

SOCCER POOLS



WEEK 312

SAT. 20th JULY, 1991

VIC STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2	BELL PARK	NTH. GEELONG	1
	ALTONA CITY	S.H. POLONIA	2
	B' MEADOWS	KEILOR	3
	CHELSEA	DONCASTER	4
	SUNBURY UTD.	RICHMOND	5
	WAVERTLEY	NUNAWADING	6
	BRIGHTON	GEELONG	7
	SANDRINGHAM	BENTLEIGH	8
	CLIFTON HILL	DANDENONG	9
	CLARINDA	EAST BRUN. U.	10
	MORELAND U.	ELTHAM UTD.	11
	CLAYTON	HEIDELBERG C.	12
	CORIO UTD.	LALOR UTD.	13
	SEAFORD UTD.	HOLLAND PK.	14
	FITZROY CITY	MOORABBIN	15
	SPRINGVALE U.	OAKLEIGH SUBS.	16
	ROCKINGHAM	ATHENA	17
	PERTH ITALIA	FREMANTLE B.	18
	SORRENTO	STIRLING MAC.	19
	BALGA	SWAN CRAC.	20
	BASSEDEAN	OSBORNE PK.	21
	DIANELLA	MELVILLE	22
	EAST PERTH	INGLEWOOD	23
	FORRESTFIELD	GOSNELLS	24
	FERDALE U.	WHITFORD C.	25
	WANNEROO	STIRLING T.P.	26
	BLACKWOOD	AZZURRI	27
	POLONIA	MODBURY	28
	CROATIA	SALISBURY	29
	HELLAS	BEGRAD	30
	PARA HILLS	ADELAIDE C.	31
	LION GRANGE	W.T. BIRKALLA	32
	PT. ADELAIDE	CAMPBELLTOWN	33
	SEAFORD	ELIZABETH	34
	OMONIA	NOARLUNGA U.	35
	CUMBLAND U.	ENFIELD CITY	36
	CENTRAL DIST.	OLYMPIANS	37
	CAPALABA	REDCLIFFE C.	38

RESERVE MATCHES

G.D. DIV 4	VIRGINIA UTD.	PINE HILLS	39
	SAMFORD R.	SOUTHSIDE	40
	KENMORE R.	UNIVERSITY	41
	HAWTHORN	KARINGAL UTD.	42
	CRANBOURNE	REPERT	43
	HAMILYN R.	SPRING COND.	44
	MORNINGTON	S. DANDENONG	45
	LANGWARRIN	YARRAVILLE	46
	PASCOE VALE	BORONIA	47
	ASHFIELD	BOORAGOON	48
	ARMADALE PK.	BALCATT A ETNA	49
	UNIVERSITY	CANNING	50
	STIRLING VASTO	COCKBURN UTD.	51
	GERALDTON	SUBIACO	52
	SWAN IC.	MORLEY	53
	QUEENS PK.	NORTH LAKE	54
	WEST YUGAL	PERTH CITY	55
	TAROONA	RAPID	56
	HOBBART CITY	KINGBOROUGH	57
	HOWRAH	STH. HOBBART	58
	METRO	WHITE EAGLE	59
	SOMERSET	CROATIA	60
	OLYMPIC	JUVENTUS	61
	LAUNCESTON	GEORGETOWN	62
	WESTERB SUBS.	RAVENSWOOD	63
	WILLIAMSTOWN	S. SPRINGVALE	64

* Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

Get your Pools in!

It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 311

SAT. 13th JULY, 1991

VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2	KNOX CITY	BELL PARK	1
	CLIFTON HILL	SANDRINGHAM	2
	DANDENONG	CHELSEA	3
	DONCASTER	B' MEADOWS	4
	KEILOR	ALTONA CITY	5
	S.H. POLONIA	BRIGHTON	6
	GEELONG	WAVERTLEY	7
	NUNAWADING	SUNBURY UTD.	8
	BENTLEIGH	RICHMOND	9
	MOORABBIN	OAKLEIGH SUBS.	10
	HOLLAND PARK	FITZROY CITY	11
	LALOR UTD.	SEAFORD UTD.	12
	CLARINDA	SPRINGVALE U.	13
	HEIDELBERG C.	CORIO UTD.	14
	ELTHAM UTD.	CLAYTON	15
	EAST BRUN. U.	MORELAND UTD.	16
	BAYSWATER	STIRLING MAC.	17
	ATHENA	SPEARWOOD	18
	KINGSWAY	PERTH ITALIA	19
	KELMSCOTT	NORTH PERTH	20
	STIRLING T.P.	BALGA	21
	SWAN CRAC.	BASSEDEAN	22
	DIANELLA	OSBORNE PK.	23
	MELVILLE	EAST PERTH	24
	INGLEWOOD	FORRESTFIELD	25
	GOSNELLS	FERDALE U.	26
	WHITFORD C.	WANNEROO	27
	SALISBURY	HELLAS	28
	MODBURY	CROATIA	29
	AZZURRI	POLONIA	30
	ADELAIDE CITY	LION GRANGE	31
	BEGRAD	PARA HILLS	32
	W.T. BIRKALLA	BLACKWOOD	33
	LOGAN VAL.	CAPALABA	34
	LATROBE VIL.	REDLANDS U.	35
	SLACKS CREEK	ALBANY	36
	SOUTHSIDE	KENMORE R.	37
	OXLEY UTD.	VIRGINIA U.	38



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 14/7/91 — WEEK 311

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED	NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED
35 38 44 27 36 60 39 59	14 2 4 8 0 2 13 6 1
60 67 61 67 56 63 63 64	4 3 3 2 1 5 7 4
62 52 50 62 61 65 64 59	7 2 0 5 4 3 3 4
58 63 60 76 72 63 68 65	0 13 9 0 1 5 3 6
66 74 67 80 65 65	7 4 8 2 0 9 0 0

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 311 SAT 13 JULY, 1991

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):

4, 5, 25, 28, 36, 38.

Supplementary Number: 19.

VIC SENIORS

STATE LEAGUE DIV ONE	P W D L F A Pts
Knox City	18 12 3 3 30 16 28
North Geelong	18 11 5 3 30 13 27
Springvale City	18 12 3 3 30 16 27
Clayfield City	18 6 6 6 25 18 22
Frankston Plains	18 9 4 5 28 22
Warrholme	18 8 3 7 24 23 19
Wendee	18 7 7 19 22 19
Western Sub.	17 5 7 24 23 17
Reservoir City	18 7 7 21 25 17
Moorholme	18 6 8 21 31 16
Emmerton City	18 6 4 9 18 31 17
Ben Hill	18 6 3 10 18 34 16
Ball Park	18 5 4 9 20 27 14
Moolmeke City	18 6 9 25 36 14
Port Melbourne	18 3 6 11 18 36 12

STATE LEAGUE DIV ONE RESERVE	P W D L F A Pts
Moolmeke City	18 12 3 3 30 16 27
Springvale City	18 11 3 5 28 24 25
Knox City	18 11 2 6 28 24 24
Port Melbourne	18 10 4 4 27 33 24
Clayfield City	18 9 5 4 27 33 23
Ball Park	18 9 4 5 28 22 22
North Geelong	17 8 4 5 21 28 20
Wendee	18 8 3 8 23 30 18
Warrholme	17 7 4 6 24 18 16
Ben Hill	18 8 10 25 28 15
Emmerton City	17 5 12 22 34 12
Frankston Plains	17 5 11 25 40 13
Moorholme	17 5 12 22 34 12
Wendee	17 5 11 25 40 13
Ball Park	17 5 11 25 40 13
Wendee	17 5 11 25 40 13

STATE LEAGUE DIV TWO	P W D L F A Pts
Blackburn	18 12 3 3 30 16 27
Altona City	18 12 3 3 30 16 27
Claremont	18 11 4 3 30 13 27
Broadmeadows	18 10 5 3 30 16 27
Warrholme	18 11 2 6 28 24 24
Frankston Plains	18 9 5 4 27 33 23
Kallaroo	18 8 3 8 23 30 18
Wendee	18 8 3 8 23 30 18
Stony Creek	18 7 5 24 20 17
Wendee	18 7 5 24 20 17
Wendee	18 7 5 24 20 17
Wendee	18 7 5 24 20 17
Wendee	18 7 5 24 20 17
Wendee	18 7 5 24 20 17

STATE LEAGUE DIV THREE	P W D L F A Pts
Goldfield Sub.	18 12 3 3 30 16 27
East Brunswick	18 11 4 3 30 13 27
Clayton	18 9 5 4 27 33 23
Corke Geelong	18 9 4 5 28 22 22
Stony Creek	18 8 3 8 23 30 18
Claremont	18 8 3 8 23 30 18
ELTHAM Valley	18 8 4 26 21 19
Moorholme City	18 6 8 22 28 28
Springvale Utd.	18 5 7 19 28 17
Lalor Utd.	18 7 6 25 18 19
Fitzroy City	18 5 3 10 23 45 15
Wm. P.A. Coburn	18 5 3 11 19 42 13
Holland Park	18 3 5 11 28 32 11
Holland Park	18 3 5 11 28 32 11

STATE LEAGUE DIV FOUR RESERVES	P W D L F A Pts
Pascoe Vale	18 13 1 2 41 14 27
Langwarrin	17 8 6 2 28 14 24
St. Dandenong	18 10 3 4 28 23
Regent	17 11 1 3 29 22
Springvale	18 10 3 4 28 23
Crabbourne	17 8 2 7 23 12 17
Karlingford	17 7 3 7 26 28 17
Verde	18 8 4 26 25 16
Verde	18 7 2 7 34 36 16
Pascoe	18 5 3 10 23 45 15
Hastings Rangers	18 3 3 10 21 36 9
Yarrville	15 1 2 12 14 37 4
Hastings	17 1 6 16 26 62

S.A.

FOUNDATION STATE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION	P W D L F A Pts
West Adelaide	16 10 4 2 36 15 24
Salisbury	16 9 6 1 36 13 24
Para Hills	16 8 3 5 31 24 19
E.D. Azzurri	16 7 4 5 23 14 18
Crofta	15 7 2 6 28 20 16
Adelaide City	16 7 4 5 20 21 15
Modbury	15 5 5 5 16 14 15
USC Lion	16 5 5 6 16 25 15
W.T. Bealieu	16 6 2 8 13 23 14
Polonia	16 6 1 10 24 31 13
Bognor	15 4 4 8 14 24 10
Blackwood	16 0 2 14 8 31 2

DIVISION TWO	P W D L F A Pts
Elizabeth City	12 7 2 2 15 8 17
Port Adelaide	12 6 3 3 15 10 15
Olympians	12 5 4 1 22 15 14
Seaford	12 5 2 14 15 12
Comberford	12 3 8 3 14 13 12
CDAPAC	12 4 4 16 18 12
Campbelltown	12 5 2 5 15 20 12
Edified City	12 4 2 6 13 15 10
Omnia	12 3 3 6 10 14 9
Noarlunga	12 2 3 7 12 23 7

SOUTHERN	P W D L F A Pts
University SC	14 10 3 4 37 30 30
Midland	14 9 1 4 33 15 28
Hobart University	12 8 2 2 35 15 26
Tasmania SC	14 8 2 4 34 30 28
Olympia SBT Bank	13 7 4 2 25 13 25
Rapids	12 8 1 3 27 18 25
South Hobart SC	13 5 3 5 23 24 18
Hobart City SC	12 4 2 6 27 26 14
Calderdale SC	14 3 3 6 21 41 12
K'borough Utd SC	14 1 5 4 16 35 8
White Eagles SC	14 1 4 9 24 37 7
Melba City SC	13 1 3 9 15 39 6

W.A.	P W D L F A Pts
Perth Italia	12 9 1 1 28 8 19
Floral Albion	13 9 1 3 27 11 19
Stirling Moors	13 8 1 4 31 13 17
Kingsey Way	13 5 6 2 20 15 16
North Perth Cr.	12 5 4 3 22 17 14
Rockingham City	13 5 4 4 17 20 14
Baywater Mier	13 4 3 6 25 27 11
Franklin Ben	12 4 3 5 18 25 11
Sorrento SC	12 2 5 5 12 24 9
Spokane Wood	12 2 4 6 19 25 8
Kelmscott Roos	13 0 0 13 6 40 0

FIRST DIVISION NO 17	P W D L F A Pts
Canning C.	17 12 3 2 32 16 37
Queens Park	17 9 6 2 36 20 24
Cockburn Utd	17 11 2 4 40 28 24
Armadale Park	17 10 3 4 39 19 23
Swan C.	17 11 1 5 33 17 23
Ashfield Dyn	17 9 2 6 32 27 20
Western Yugal	17 8 4 5 30 44 20
Pest City	17 6 5 4 31 18 17
North Lake E.	17 7 3 7 43 38 17
Gendall La F.	17 6 4 7 29 34 16
Stirling Yugal	17 7 2 8 30 42 16
Boonagoon Z.	17 5 2 10 29 48 12
University	17 3 5 8 26 35 11
Marley Wind	17 3 3 11 18 32 9
Subiaco City	17 1 4 12 17 44 6
Balcatta Etna	17 2 2 13 28 57 6

SECOND DIVISION NO 17	P W D L F A Pts
Canning C.	17 12 3 2 32 16 37
Queens Park	17 9 6 2 36 20 24
Cockburn Utd	17 11 2 4 40 28 24
Armadale Park	17 10 3 4 39 19 23
Swan C.	17 11 1 5 33 17 23
Ashfield Dyn	17 9 2 6 32 27 20
Western Yugal	17 8 4 5 30 44 20
Pest City	17 6 5 4 31 18 17
North Lake E.	17 7 3 7 43 38 17
Gendall La F.	17 6 4 7 29 34 16
Stirling Yugal	17 7 2 8 30 42 16
Boonagoon Z.	17 5 2 10 29 48 12
University	17 3 5 8 26 35 11
Marley Wind	17 3 3 11 18 32 9
Subiaco City	17 1 4 12 17 44 6
Balcatta Etna	17 2 2 13 28 57 6

PREMIER LEAGUE NO 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wanneroo Bt	16	10	5	1	28	14	25
Bassendean C	16	8	3	4	33	20	21
Formdale Utd	16	7	5	4	40	19	21
Balga SC	16	8	1	6	30	23	18
Inglewood Utd	16	7	5	4	32	26	18
Forrestfield	16	5	9	2	29	28	18
Diamond Star	16	7	4	3	31	21	18
Swan Croatia	16	6	6	3	30	21	18
Melville Alton	16	6	6	4	28	19	18
Stirling Tascany	16	5	8	6	25	16	16
East Perth V	16	3	8	7	17	25	12
Osborne PK G	16	2	5	9	17	36	9
Gosnells City	16	3	2	11	15	43	8
Whitford City	16	1	4	14	14	54	3



QUEENSLAND

LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lions	17	11	4	2	30	17	37
Rochdale R.	16	11	1	4	41	20	34
North Star	17	7	6	2	34	25	28
Crookville	17	9	1	7	28	22	28

P W D L F A Pts
Bris Lions

Last gasp!

BHP AUSTRAL 1
SYDNEY MACE 1

SYDNEY Macedonia, by virtue of a brilliant Scott Gilbert free kick in the 85th minute, stole two points from a rather disappointing BHP Austral side on Saturday at Austral Park, where an early morning inspection allowed only first grade to play on a rain soaked pitch.

Macedonia looked the more effective in the first half. Theo Kotsias being prominent as often as anyone.

Craig Carter got down well to save from Kotsias who had intercepted a stray back pass in the 10th minute and was a hero on two further occasions when Kotsias faced him on one.

David Lowe had Austral supporters on their feet in the 13th, Macedonia's George Souris stepping in to make a timely

tackle in the danger zone.

It was, it must be emphasised, a rather uninspiring first half for home supporters and they were slow returning to their seats.

The expectation of a prolonged scoreless draw was their chief concern when they left the warmer confines of the adjoining club house.

Much better fare was on offer in the second half, however, Andrew Roberts combining well with Bobby Naumov to earn a corner in the early stages.

Darren Stewart thumped the ball hard against the upright from the resultant flag kick and thus began a series of flurries at either end.

The Newcastle defence recovered after Scott Gilbert looked set to capitalize on a mix up between Mike Boogaard and his keeper in the 60th. Then two minutes later big Mark Reveley headed over from a Kotsias free kick and Lowe, down in the Macedonia box appealing for a penalty four minutes later, had the crowd screaming for justice.

Australis looked ready to settle for the draw until Nicky Meredith, aided by Ralph Maier, sent Dean McWhirter through and as Howard Tredinnick added his support McWhirter despatched the ball past the diving Tony Avellino.

Macedonia had been an equal force in the game and Scott Gilbert crowned a good performance with a nicely hit free kick, finding space between the wall and the keeper to bring the sides level again with five minutes remaining.

The now fully alert crowd was looking for an action replay in the 90th minute when, after David Lowe had nodded on a Naumov cross with a back header, Meredith hit the underside of the bar. Amid claims that the ball had crossed the line, the Macedonia defence scrambled the ball away to safety.

Newcastle will be looking to get the most from their two loan players Scott O'Donnell and David Lowe who both play their last game for Austral on 27th July.

BHP AUSTRAL: Carter, Roberts, Boogaard, O'Donnell, Stewart, Tredinnick, McWhirter, Meredith, Lowe, Maier, Naumov.

SYDNEY MACEDONIA: Avellino, Souris, Crkovski, Reveley, Pilevski, Koczka, Surjan, Bozkovski, Kotsias (Adioski 70), Gilbert, Kadric.

REFEREE: Dennis Bartlett.

TOP GOAL SCORERS

8 Tony Lemežina (Canb), Scott Gilbert (Syd Mac), Grant Bard (Sutherland).

7 Stewart Porter (Rockdale), Bruno Beddoni (Rock).

6 Jose Iriarte (Warr), Robbie O'Shea (Suth).

5 Paul Foster (Canb), Randall Easthorpe (Black), Darryl Sharp (Suth), Lawrie McKinna (Black), John McKie (Warr).

4 Sahsa Bozkovski (Syd Macedonia), Anthony Versi (Warr), Sasha Spirovski (Syd Mac), Louis Dounis (Canb), Harry Christodoulou (Suth), Rod Wyatt (Pol), John Kock (Canb), Jarek Nowicki (Pol), Osvaldo El Ali (Avala), Ralph Maier (Australis), Stephen Berry (Avala), Geoff Gunning (Black).

3 Alex Bundalo (Avala), Nick Oustambasidis (Canb), Tony Parison (Canb), David Ensor (Suth), Peter Katholos (Canb), Scott Deveridge (Rock), Shane Clinch (Suth), Zlatko Markovski (Rock), Fabian Kadric (Syd Mac), Dean McWhirter (Australis).

REFEREE: Jorge Kichman.

Shire the tops



FIRST DIVISION
COMPILED BY
PAUL GOODWIN

SUTHERLAND SHIRE 2
C BURRY M VILLE 0

SUTHERLAND beat Canterbury 2-0 at Seymour Shaw Park, winning a vital top of the table clash by defending competently, a hard won half time lead.

The Sharks were dominant before the break, but had to thank goalkeeper Paul Dart for some timely saves throughout the match.

In the 10th minute Dart dived bravely at the feet of Nick Oustambasidis who had intercepted an underhit back pass, the soggy pitch, no doubt, contributing to the error.

Canterbury headed against the bar in the 14th minute, but the reliable Sutherland defence soon settled down and little more was seen of the Bernes before the break.

Grant Bard blasted wide for Sutherland in the 15th, after a cross from the left by Darryl Sharp.

In the 21st Harry Christodoulou, back to his best in midfield, made a good run and with quick, one touch football involving Sharp, Scott Leney and Rob O'Shea, the latter was wide with his eventual shot, but not by much.

After a Rob O'Shea free kick had been saved in the 22nd Christodoulou made another run down the right side and cut the ball back for Leney to hit home from about six metres to give Sutherland the lead.

When Charlie Yankos conceded a free kick on the edge of the box in the 39th Robbie O'Shea was able to blast the ball through the wall at shoulder height and into the roof of the net to make it 2-0.

Canterbury worked hard to get back in the game after the break, but stout defending and the woodwork stopped him from drawing level.

Zoran Ilic made a searching run across the park in the 53rd and shaved the post with his low shot from 22 metres, Yankos chiming in with a series of free kicks with varying accuracy soon after.

Dart made the first of



CHARLIE YANKOS

his many important second half saves, clutching the ball from off the head of a lurking Louis Dounis in the 64th and smothering a loose ball in the dying stages when Dounis had initially hit the post and the ball ran free.

Sharp had a goal disallowed for offside in the 68th, Christodoulou hit the post in the 70th and Shane Clinch was denied by smart work by Bernes custodian George Bouhoutos in the 78th as Sutherland did what they could on the counter attack.

Following a corner in the 76th Yankos smacked the bar, but once again on this occasion the

ball just would not go in. It was a return to the pattern Sutherland have adopted in their earlier successes. Nothing sensational about their play, simple moves, disciplined defence and sound general team work earning them three more indispensable points.

SUTHERLAND: Dart, Ensor, Sellar (Edmunds 50), M. O'Shea, Blacaya, P. O'Shea, Christodoulou, Leney, Clinch, Bard, Sharp (Lardis 79).

CANTERBURY-MAR-RICKVILLE: Bouhoutos, Rezo, Hantzis, Radman, Yankos, Slavski, Ilic (Tsakousidis 78), Papoytis, Parison (Adamou 80), Dounis, Oustambasidis. REFEREE: Nick Asargiotis.

The killer blow amiss

AVALA 1
BLACKTOWN CITY 1

AVALA had the better of the game against Blacktown but, somewhat below full strength, they could not summon enough reserves of ingenuity to deliver the killer blow to the Demons.

Milan Blagojevic was back at the helm of the defence in place of the suspended Mirko Radosavljevic, while David Fitzharris filled in at left back as Miodrag Radovic sent a booming shot into the net from 15 metres.

Radovic also hit the bar in this period as Avala searched for the elusive winner.

The return of Chris Ackerley (bruised ankle), Alex Bundalo (holidays) and the suspended Radosavljevic and Scott Ashton for Wednesday's Waratah State Cup final could give the side the edge in that game, though Blacktown were missing Lawrie McKinna for this match.

One man who will be missed and who made a big impact in the earlier rounds for Avala is Craig Collins, recruited from Sydney Olympic, but now living in Queensland and playing with Brisbane Lions.

AVALA: Pupovac, Vranovic, Blagojevic, Vukmirovic, Fitzharris, Benitez, Berry, Divljak, Kupresanin, Radovic, El Ali.

BLACKTOWN CITY: M. Gibson, Longo, Langon, Northam, Gunning, Mason, Williams, Callinan, Xaurab (Easthorpe 75), Bourke, Suman (Lees 75).

REFEREE: Jorge Kichman.

WARRINGAH F/ WATER 3 (McKie, Calcott, Lombardo)

CANBERRA METRO 2 (Rogic, Lemežina).

AVALA 1 (Radovic)

BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (Gunning).

SUTHERLAND 2 (Leney, R.O'Shea)

CANTERBURY M'VILLE 0.

ROUND 16 RESULTS

BHP AUSTRAL 1 (McWhirter)

SYDNEY MACEDONIA 1 (Gilbert).

WARRINGAH F/ WATER 3 (McKie, Calcott, Lombardo)

CANBERRA METRO 2 (Rogic, Lemežina).

AVALA 1 (Radovic)

BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (Gunning).

SUTHERLAND 2 (Leney, R.O'Shea)

CANTERBURY M'VILLE 0.

Sparkling display

W GAH F WATER 3
CANBERRA METRO 2

TWO understrength sides bent on reaching the semi-finals met under cloudless skies at Cromer Park and provided an ordinary sized crowd with some sparkling soccer.

Warringah Freshwater, missing player-coach Glenn Sterrey, midfielder Anthony Versi and Argentinian striker Jose Iriarte came from behind twice to beat Canberra Metro 3-2.

Metro's felt the loss of key defender Andrew Young, away in Britain with the Universities touring side. Soccerroo sweeper Ned Zelic, in dispute with parent club Sydney Croatia, the injured Brad Maloney and suspended utility player Joe Gagetti.

Not surprisingly, then, it was a day for the youngsters, with 17 year old Mladin Rogic netting first for the visitors and 19 year olds, Ben Calcott and Steve Lombardo securing the points for Warringah with good second half goals.

Canberra dictated the tempo throughout the first half and after several near misses went to the first in the 44th minute.

A corner on the left, lifted to the near post by the fiery Zoran Pratezina, was nodded down at the feet of Rogic by Paul Foster, waiting at the near post, and the stand in sweeper slammed the ball into the roof of the net.

Earlier on Metro had come close to scoring many times, with Andy Ravenello surging through in the 4th minute and seeing his cross wasted and the same player hooking the ball just wide in the 13th minute after a Stan Dukic cross.

In the 21st minute Ravenello got to the right byline and cut the ball back only for Paul Foster to angle the ball across the face of goal from right in front.

Four minutes later Pratezina lifted the ball over defenders' heads into the path of Stan Dukic and with Peter Gunning stranded at the edge of his area, Dukic chipped the ball over the 'keeper, hitting the post, but with defender Mark Brown heading away to safety.

Gunning tipped a Ravenello lob over the bar in the 43rd, as Canberra continued to take the game to the home side.

Moments after conceding the first goal Warringah fought back and in first half stoppage

time Wayne Pierce burst into the area and sent in a low cross which the deadly John McKie converged on and drove into the net from less than a metre.

Realising the ease with which they had equalized with almost their first real assault on the disorganised Metro defence, Warringah began the second half with much more confidence.

Nevertheless it was Canberra which regained the lead in the 59th minute.

Substitute Paul Beltrami got away down the left and as Paul Foster dummed the cross Tony Lemežina had a free shot from 15 metres which he struck, left footed, into the centre of the net.

Pierce was just over with a shot in the 55th for Warringah and McKie was denied by a smart tackle from Rogic in the 62nd, before the home side drew level again.

A Pierce throw on the left was nodded on cleverly by McKie from amongst a crowd of players, allowing Calcott to steer the ball home from his position wide on the right of the box.

Calcott, an Armidale-education member of the Combined High Schools side in recent seasons, in fact the first to make the grade from that area, had

a sound game, his first half shot being the only one of note from the home town team.

Warringah continued to press home their second half superiority. McKie and Pierce both clearing the bar narrowly, before a quick move in the 77th brought the winner.

Robert de Ceglie, quiet for long periods of the game, made a devastating run into the area from the left and provided the diminutive Steve Lombardo with the opening he needed to tuck the ball past the diving Paul Jones.

Canberra made a late rally, but a more assured Warringah held them comfortably at bay for the last ten minutes.

Glenn Sterrey told his players at half time that they were paying their well placed opponents far too much respect and they went about their work thereafter with far more composure and attack flair.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Gunning, Etherington, Brown, Dean, Pierce, Miranda, Meel, Calcott, de Ceglie, Lombardo, McKie.

CANBERRA METRO: Jones, Marcina, Vanzetti (Beltrami 49), Rogic, Koch, Pratezina, Grassick, Foster, Ravenello (Muelano 77), Lemežina, Dukic.

REFEREE: John Cameron.

Big times ahead

The top five series this year, with its attractive prize money of \$6,000 ensures that more clubs than ever have something to play for in the final weeks.

All but one of the games will be staged at The Gabbie Stadium where the pitch, not to mention the stadium itself, is looking a picture. Canberra slipped out of the four for the first time with their defeat by Warringah and a test of their current resolve comes on Sunday when leaders Sutherland are visitors to Deakin Oval.

This should be a classic, neither side can afford to drop points and there should be a goal or two about for the capital's soccer supporters.

The enterprising locals need a win to restore confidence and

must stiffen a brittle defence if they are to gain anything from their creative work, having given goals away recently like Christmas presents.

Sutherland are back on track, but a score draw is the tip here.

Canterbury face Rockdale at Arington and another score draw is fancied, though it is a game either could win without surprising.

Rockdale have had a week off and are not at their best away from Hurstville while the Berries are not scoring often enough to please coach Eduardo Moervec in his quest for honours.

Sydney Macedonia meets Warringah Freshwater in an intriguing match at Jensen Oval. Anything could happen here and

based on past knowledge an early goal for Macedonia could signal another sound performance.

Warringah have their sights set on consolidating a top spot and in a week of close games this one could also end up inconclusive.

Blacktown City are likely to give Polonia a hiding at the Gabbie, despite the possibility of being tired from a midweek cup tie.

Southern districts could find Avala too tricky at Rangers Stadium where many sides have had to alter their normal style of play.

Avala is another with a cup on their mind and with only an outside chance of reaching the five, it remains to be seen whether they will have the necessary

mental state to tackle the more mundane fare of State League.

In another awkward fixture Avala are favoured to win comfortably, but not with any great confidence.

Manly North Shore are still seeking that elusive first win and will require a mighty effort against BHP Austral at Cromer Park if they are to do so here.

The attention of Australians seems to be directed at the ensuring National League season as the State League winds down, so perhaps this is the chance the bottom dogs need to get off the mark. A home win to follow two recent plucky draws is the prediction in a weekend of games which could defy all the pundits.

WARATAH CUP



ALEX BUNDALO (L) in action

BY PAUL GOODWIN
In a unique move the NSW Soccer Federation has programmed its prestigious Waratah State Cup competition Finals for both men and women on the same evening, this Wednesday 17th July at the Gabbie Stadium.

The early game at 6.30 is between the undefeated Women's State League leaders North Ryde and fierce rivals North Rocks.

This game brings together some of the best talent in the country, with Soccerroo representatives in both sides.

The North Ryde team which was formerly under the control of the North Ryde RSL is coached by Vic Mickovski in the previous rounds, on each occasion registering an 8-1 scoreline.

Janine Riddington leads the charge as striker, with 10 goals in those lead up games and like fellow striker Carol Vinson is an international cap. Vinson has returned recently from Denmark where she played professionally for the Fortuna club for one season and is keen to go back.

Other Soccerroo team members are club captain and midfielder Moya Dodd and left back Janine McPhee.

Others to shine this year include Lisa Van Dorp at sweeper, experienced Ire-

land midfielder Teresa McCann, 32, Vicky Carny and the promising Denise Pentecost.

North Ryde is undefeated after 12 State League games, its only dropped point a 0-0 draw and with 68 goals so far in the campaign should provide great entertainment.

North Rocks, by contrast, is a relatively younger side, coached by 'veteran' Anissa Tann, the 23 year old Australian captain.

Currently lying third in the competition, North Rocks beat Gladesville Ravens 2-0 and Epping Eastwood 3-0 in reaching the Final.

Tann has left the captaincy duties to 19 year old Soccerroo Traci Bartlett and the pair have hatched a secret plan to wrest the trophy from their old rivals.

They will be held in their mission by former North Ryde striker Katrina Boyd, another Australian squad member on whom depends the goalscoring workload.

Tann has been a Soccerroo for three years and captain for the past twelve months and is determined that her bunch of largely former Melita players will bring the big guns unstuck.

In 15 year old Tracey Weston the team has a midfielder who is captain of the NSW Under 16 side and Kaye Yardin the 18 year old captain of the NSW Under 19 team is another to give the North Rocks team a high quality look.

When the teams met in the league North Ryde won narrowly 1-0 and a table turning exercise may be about to unfold on Wednesday night.

The 8.15 feature between Blacktown City and Avala caps off a great night for soccer fans at the magnificent Gabbie Stadium and the new 1200 seater stand should fill quickly.

Blacktown have accounted for Waverley, Adamstown and Mount Druitt along the way and are running into top form now. Their depth of talent and cup tie preparedness should see them give opponents, Avala a mighty hard time.

Avala were convincing 3-0 winners over Canberra Metro in the semi-final, but had to take penalties to see off the threat of Canterbury-Marrickville in the previous round.

Their convincing 5-2 win over Sydney Macedonia on this ground set them up for a tilt at the Demons and since their opposition has all come from the 1st Division they must be highly respected.

It will be a contrast of styles between an Avala side stacked with ball players such as Alex Bundalo and Osvaldo El Ali and Blacktown's more direct, but equally entertaining approach, involving strikers of the calibre of Lawrie McKinna, Randall Easthorpe and Geoff Gunning.

On home soil the Demons must be favoured, but the real winners should be the crowd.

Non-stop Waverley

AS Waverley increased their lead to seven points at the top following their 3-1 win over Mt Druitt, nearest rivals Petersham twice squandered the lead and were held 2-2 at Cyprus United, as seven clubs separated by four points scramble for the semi finals.



le remained in command, and two goals from Craig Jones in the 30th and 41st minutes saw the home side well in control at the break.

A mistake at the back cost Granville five minutes after the restart, Nagi seizing on the chance to hit an unstoppable drive past Tony Marco.

A cheeky free kick via Alberio Folladosa and a brilliant solo effort from Marconi Pereira in the 57th and 59th minutes gave Granville an assailable 5-2 lead, before Nagi grabbed his third.

Again a defensive lapse allowed the experienced Nagi to add respectability to the scoreline in the 79th minute, and if not for four classy saves from Granville custodian Marco late in the game, the home side could have been severely embarrassed.

A late penalty from Safet Katovik saved Auburn's bacon, as they scrambled to a 1-1 draw at fourth placed Dulwich Hill.

Both sides shared the opportunities in the opening 40 minutes, Auburn's Paul Petton denied a goal for handball in the 23rd minute, while Beres fluffed a golden opportunity, missing the target from in front on the half hour for Dulwich Hill.

The home side took the lead from an extraordinary own goal in the 40th minute, the

ball rebounding off two defenders and the goalkeeper as the Auburn defence attempted to clear under no real pressure.

Auburn, led by the crafty Katovik, turned up the heat in the second half going close on a number of occasions, as Katovik continually left players in his wake.

As Dulwich Hill looked to have weathered the storm, Katovik again dashed into the box sprawling three defenders before being felled in the 88th minute, suitably Katovik planted the ball home from the spot to rescue Auburn's semi final chances.

Waverley stretched their unbeaten run to 11 after avenging their round five loss to Mt Druitt, winning the return 3-1 last Saturday.

Paul Harriott beat two defenders before crashing home Waverley's first from 25 metres in the 16th minute, Wayne Farnsworth latched onto a poor backpass to snare the equaliser two minutes before the break.

The match remained tight until the final 20 minutes, substitute Barry Walker put the league leaders ahead after Harriott knocked the ball down in the 71st minute, and Eric Ferguson put the match beyond the visitors two minutes later, after being put clear by Walker.

nou produced a telling save to deny Petersham from the spot.

As the half time break loomed Xiourouppas shirked his way past three defenders on a run from the centre circle and laid on a perfect pass for an unmarked Johnstone to net the equaliser.

Petersham again dominated proceedings in the second period, Darren Stephenson headed home a free kick in the 52nd minute but was answered by Xiourouppas who netted from the spot following a hand ball five minutes later.

Despite a classy hat trick from leading scorer Ali Nagi, bottom of the ladder Port Hacking slumped to their fourth loss on the trot, a 5-3 thriller at Granville.

After a series of poor results the Garside Parkers once again got back on track, opening the scoring in the 13th minute, Andy Ferris netting a superb header through a crowded goalmouth following a cross from Christian Ortiz.

Although Nagi headed the sides level six minutes later, Granvil-

For United the match was the last occasion to flaunt the clever skills of Cypriot International Panikos Xiourouppas, on his final outing of four guest appearances.

Once again Xiourouppas was the star of the show, scoring the final goal, his fourth in the last three matches, to gain an all important draw for the home side.

Petersham, however had the better of the game with Eddie Tomasic the main thorn in United's side, heading against the post after two minutes and denied by a great save from keeper Kyprianou in the tenth minute.

Tomasic was finally rewarded heading home the opener after 17 minutes as Petersham continued to hold the upper hand.

The visitors should have taken the game by the scruff of the neck in the 28th minute when Tom Pontidas handled in the area, but Kypria-



No prizes for Graham Taylor



From our man in Canberra Graham Cooke

England manager Graham Taylor does not get my award for moral fibre when, from the safety of half the world away, he bags his team's Australian and New Zealand opponents on the recent tour here.

Taylor, a model of diplomacy while still within reach of the local media, now claims games against the Socceroos and the All Whites were "light years away from the real thing".

"They bear no relation whatsoever to the kind of matches England will have to face," he said. "In terms of judging the international potential of ambitious young players, this tour was a waste of time."

"With the greatest respect to Australia and New Zealand, they don't fit the requirement. To be frank, they are a poor man's Republic of Ireland."

It is interesting that Taylor used the comparison with the Republic,

which has consistently thwarted England in recent games. If the manager wants to criticise the style of the Australians fair enough, but to suggest they don't "fit the requirement" simply because they successfully countered all his "brilliant young professionals" could throw at them during much of the game at the Sydney Football Stadium is, I would suggest, digging deep for excuses.

The truth is the British tabloid press, in all its blinkered xenophobic glory, is getting on the back of the new manager in much the same way as they did with his predecessor, Bobby Robson. They are demanding to know why the current England squad did not commit slaughter Down Under in the manner of teams which trotted through holiday tours in the 1950s and 60s.

These astute commentators on the state of the game are not interested in explanations of the progress made by Australia and New Zealand over the past decade, so Taylor defends himself with the old line about spoiling football. His critics are thrown the example of Ireland because it is just about close enough to home to come within their sphere of consciousness.

Then, of course, it is so easy to heap blame on far-away Aussies and Kiwis.

Okay for now, Mr Taylor but one day your words may come back to haunt you... and for this disappointed expatriate the day of a Socceroo victory lap at Wembley cannot come soon enough.

Olympic regained the leadership of the ACT League's First Division with a 2-1 win in the top-of-the-table battle with Tuggeranong United.

Tuggeranong Seniors President Graham Platt said he could have no arguments with the result. "Olympic had a greater will to win," he said.

After a scoreless first half, goals by Njegosh Popovich and Baz Giampaolo steered Olympic on to a victory course, with Tuggeranong claiming a consolation through Jimmy Baxter five minutes from the end.

Meanwhile, third placed Canberra City failed to take full advantage of United's reversal

when it dropped a point in a goal-less draw with Juventus.

In other ACT League games bottom-placed University of Canberra made up ground on Canberra Croatia with a 3-2 win in the relegation battle at University Oval, while Belconnen United kept on course for a top-four place with a 2-1 win over Weston Creek.

Australian women's coach Steve Darby has officially announced his resignation and the AWSA is advertising the position.

Darby foreshadowed the move earlier this year after Australia was beaten by New Zealand in the qualification competition for this year's World Cup in China. The only question was when he would go.

Bobby Goodwin, one of the organisers of a private tour of Canberra players to England next year, says he has had favourable replies from a number of leading clubs.

"I have had letters from Alex Ferguson of Manchester United and Graeme Souness of Liverpool saying we will be welcome to make tours of their clubs and watch the players at training," Goodwin said.

"We've also had a good response from Chelsea, while Preston has even offered us a couple of games against their reserve squads."

Goodwin will also be looking at a trip to the milder climate of England's West Country, with a visit to Terry Cooper's Exeter City a strong possibility.

"At the moment we have 15 people interested while we want to take at least 20," he said. Inquiries should be made to Brian Watkins on (06) 258-3445.

Olympic Old Boys beat their Juventus equivalents 5-3 in the George Campbell Memorial Match at Hawker Oval, while Peter Mazis picked up the player-of-the-match trophy awarded for the First Division fixture between the clubs.

The day, dedicated to the memory of Campbell, a player for both clubs in a career cut short by a car accident in 1984, drew more than 500 spectators.

John Novak, on loan to Condors in the ACT's Youth League Second Division, scored the winning goal for a de-

pleted Canberra Metro youth team in its 1-0 friendly win over the ACT Seniors.

Novak has been making steady progress over this season, prompting youth team manager Richard Beazley to predict a bright future for the 15-year-old.

Canberra Metro youth player Paul 'PJ' Roberts, who attends Marist College, has been selected for the NSW Schoolboys team which will tour Asia at the end of the year.

Former Canberra Metro central defender Jason Dunn was in the crowd for his ex-team's 4-0 NSW Soccer League loss to Sydney Macedonia at Jensen Oval.

Dunn left Canberra at the end of the 1990 season to play for newly-promoted Wollongong Macedonia in the sum-

mer Quit National League, but his stay there was cut short by a knee injury.

He told me he has made a complete recovery, but had not signed for anyone during the current NSW League season.

"The last thing I heard is that I am on Wollongong's transfer list, but I have not been in touch with them for a while," he said.

Currently Sydney-based, Dunn says he expects his job to be taking him back to Canberra shortly, and it is obvious a link with the Metros would fit in with his plans.

At 25 the big man is at the peak of his career with a wealth of experience and at least half-a-dozen good seasons still to offer. Canberra could certainly have used him in the back-line against Macedonia.

Turner Cup!

Is this, at last, to be the year for the NSW South Coast? No team from that area has won the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup circles.

This year Whitebridge were given no favours by the draw. Following a bye and a 5-1 win over Irrawang (Raymond Terrace) they beat schools with great soccer traditions — West Wallsend 3-2, Wallsend 1-0 and Merewether 3-1.

Their pre-quarter final match will be up in Tamworth against Oxley High who deserve their spot after defeating Peel 5-1, Rosary, Tamworth 0/1 — 0/0, Gunnedah 2-0, Duval, Armidale 0/5 — 0/4 and Maitland 2-0. Like Cardiff that is doing things the hard way. The match should be a classic.

They are scheduled to play Riverina winners next up at home but unfortunately they are two games behind as the new term starts. The winner of the local derby, Kooragang and St Michaels, Wagga has to play Griffiths before meeting Keira.

The feeling that Bathurst's Kelso High would be the best bet to win the NSW Western Area Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup final went to plan.

They had been tipped following their good win over last year's winners and eventual fourth placed overall, Lithgow, in their Round Three clash.

They then downed Forbes 2-0 in the Area semi-final before accounting for Canobolas, Orange 3-0 in the final. Their pre-quarter final match will be against either St Spyridons, Maroubra or Darmanan of the ACT.

Up on the NSW North Coast Taree have yet to play Bellingen in the first week of term for the right to play Kadina (Lismore) in the pre-quarter-final match of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup.

Taree could start slight favourites as coach John Barker has a few Northern NSW Super League players in the side. However, Tom Campbell has two sharp-shooting forwards in his Bellingen squad.

After their dramatic 1-0 victory over Grafton's Catherine McAuley High, Kadina coach John Musgrave has his charges ready for the away match.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

STATE LEAGUE

ROUND 17

SUNDAY JULY 21

DIVISION 1

Southern Districts	v	Avala	Rangers Stadium
Cant/M'ville	v	Rockdale Ilinden	Arlington Oval
Canberra Metro	v	Sutherland Shire	Deakin Oval
Sydney Macedonia	v	Warringah F/W	Jensen Park
Blacktown City	v	Polonia	Gabbie Stadium
Port Hacking	v	BHP Austral	Cromer Park
Manly Nth Shore			

DIVISION 2

SUNDAY JULY 21

Central Coast	v	Granville Chile	Plum Park
Petersham	v	Mt Pritchard	Ersleville Oval
Gladesville Hby	v	Cyprus United	Christie Park
Mt Druitt Town	v	Campbelltown	Popendetta Park
Auburn Yugal	v	Dulwich Hill	Seymour Shaw
	v	Waverley	Mona Park

MATCH TIMES: (unless otherwise stated)

Reserve Grade commences at 12.30pm

First Grade commences at 2.30pm

PHONE RESULT SERVICE: 0055 22681

See State League action this week!

Victorian Premier League

VIC SENIORS

Marblehead.....	16	1	8	7	15	29	14
Rock Park.....	17	1	6	10	22	46	1

Sutherland.....	16	11	2	1	2	34	9	38
Warringah F/Water....	16	8	3	1	4	21	18	31

1ST GRADE

	P	W	S	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sutherland.....	16	11	2	1	2	34	9	38
Warringah/F.Water.....	16	8	3	1	4	21	18	31
Blacktown City.....	16	6	6	1	3	20	13	31
Canterbury M'ville.....	16	6	5	3	2	19	12	31
Canberra Metro.....	15	7	3	2	3	23	16	29
Rockdale/Illinden.....	15	7	3	1	4	20	15	28
Sydney Macedonia.....	16	6	4	0	6	25	21	26
Avala.....	16	6	4	1	5	21	22	25
BHP Austral.....	15	5	3	2	5	18	16	23
Polonia.....	15	4	1	0	10	12	28	13
Southern District.....	14	1	2	1	10	12	29	8
Manly-Nth Shore.....	14	0	1	2	11	5	36	4

UNDER

	P	W	S	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City	16	9	5	1	1	35	15	38
Canberra Metro	15	7	6	1	1	26	16	34
Sutherland Shire	16	10	2	0	4	27	19	34
BHP Austral	13	8	2	0	3	28	18	28
Warringah F/water	16	5	6	1	4	19	14	28
Potlona	15	6	3	1	5	21	22	25
Rockdale Ilinden	14	5	4	0	5	20	20	23
Sydney Macedonia	15	3	5	1	6	26	21	30
Avsila	16	3	4	1	8	16	23	18
Manly-Nth Shore	14	3	4	0	7	19	29	17
Southern District	14	3	3	0	8	18	36	15
Canterbury M/Ville	16	2	2	0	12	22	31	10

SYNOPSIS

• **QUARTER FINAL**

FIRST GRADE

Leichhardt 2 Enfield 0, Phoenix 2 Concord 1, Equador 1 University of NSW 0, Pyreans 2 UTA 1.

RESERVES

Enfield 3 Leichhardt 1, Racing 4 Phoenix 1, Glebe 3 Equador 1, Westpac 3 UTA 2.

OVER 35

Athens 3 Quito 1, Strathfield 2 Ararat 1, Greece 2
Athenians 1, Concord 1 Sydney Uni 1.

**QUEENSLAND DIVISION**[illegible]



Vic Health supports the
Victorian Soccer Federation



Gate shut

DOVETON 1
ALTONA GATE 3

BY
PETER SIONOS

ALTONA GATE kept its championship hopes alive after it disposed of relegated Doveton 3-1 at Waratah Reserve on Saturday.

The heavy conditions were not conducive for good football but two goals in the opening three minutes virtually sealed the points for the visitors.

Altona Gate collected one of the quickest goals of the season when Zoran Todorovski found himself on the end of a John Markovski cross to plant the ball past keeper Brad Zeally after only 35 seconds.

Less than two minutes later, Todorovski scored his second to increase Doveton's misery. Peter Nicovski slid a through ball in Todorovski's path and he had no trouble beating Zeally from eight yards.

Altona Gate were on fire and Nicovski and Todorovski were the shining lights for the visitors, right on the half-hour mark, Altona went further ahead. Big John

Markovski found Todorovski in the box who squared a pass to wee striker Charlie Egan who buried the chance.

Not to be denied the Doves fought back to get onto the scoresheet a minute before the break. Mitch Cattermole combined with David Blessington who slid the ball past the outstretched reach of keeper Alex Micevski to reduce the deficit.

The second half saw no addition to the half-time scoreline in a lack-lustre ending. The Doves slowly edged its way into the game and eventually took control of midfield but again failed up front.

Their best chance arrived in the 72nd minute when Cattermole was put through by Danny Prvulj but his attempt was well saved by the on-rushing Micevski.

DOVETON: Zeally, Brown, Cox, Prvulj, Lufford, Kazarin, Ireland, McMinness, A. McCormick, Cattermole, Blessington.

ALTONA GATE: A. Micevski, S. Micevski, T. Markovski, M. Markovski, McMillan, Nicovski, Torteviski, Egan, J. Markovski, Todorovski, Davis.

VOTES: D. Blessington (Doves) - 1
Z. Todorovski (Altona) - 2

Juve happy

CROYDON 0
JUVENTUS 2

BY SHAUN ASHTON

WHILE Brunswick Juventus were edging closer to the 1991 Premier League title Croydon City continued its recent poor form on home turf losing 2-0 to Juve.

Inevitably, Juve opened up proceedings however, with a stroke of luck when Croydon keeper

John McKinlay tumbled allowing Brian MacNichol to score both Juve goals.

Croydon took up the challenge but Juve keeper Peter Laumets in fine form thwarted many attempts of a deserved goal.

In the closing minutes of the match, MacNichol rounded off the scoreline with his second goal when Croydon's mind's were at the other end of the park.

Steve Smith sent in a

long throw into the penalty box for John Corvan to flick it on to MacNichol who completed the job with his head.

CROYDON: McKinlay, Brown, Opasins, Nolan, Dobson, Brack, Humble, McArthur, McGeechay (Rinnuvast), Klepac, Field.

JUVENTUS: Laumets, Corvan, Marley, Doyle, Della Rocca, MacNichol, Sabatino, Smith, Minichello, Ingless, De Amicis.

VOTES: I. Dobson (Croyd) - 1
B. MacNichol (Juve) - 2

Goals galore

GREEN GULLY 3
ST ALBANS 3

BY
TONY ABATE

IN AN ENCOUNTER which typified this low table clash, Green Gully and St Albans played out one of the most enthralling games of the season in front of a bumper crowd.

In the 39th minute David Hogben woke the crowd up from a cloud of boredom when he delivered a high ball which Sasha Becvinovski slotted past keeper Mate Grgic with a towering header.

The second-half turned out to be a more entertaining affair, when Mark

Silic weaved through a barrage of Gully tackles in the 59th minute, and delivered a cross which was always bound for the back of the net once it rebounded off Ivan Kelic's head.

With 25 minutes remaining, the sending off of Andrew Marth sparked St Albans into action as Mark Silic produced a thundering shot past Charlie Sant, after a scramble of attempts by the Dinamo attack.

Eight minutes later, Hogben struck a wicked drive which caught Grgic scrambling into a state of dismay as the ball took a deflection off Vlatko Belic's head.

Hogben, was the playmaker once more in the 81st minute, when he constructed an eye-catching through ball along

the ground to Becvinovski who nipped the home crowd into a state of joyous bewilderment with a cheeky strike through Grgic's legs.

With the game almost won, at the stroke of full-time the Gully defence once again displayed its deficiencies when it allowed Chris Ketsakidis to scramble home the loose ball which never looked like being cleared.

GREEN GULLY: Sant, Hogben, Campbell, Kuzman, Belic, Chatouli, Rastocic (Attard), Becvinovski (Clantart), Azzopardi, Hunter, Smart.

ST ALBANS: Grgic, Cuze (Radio), Ketsakidis, Collins, Marth, Skenderovic, Luburic, Becak, Silic, Pondeljak, Kelic, Johnson.

VOTES: D. Hogben (G. Gully) - 1
M. Silic (St Alb) - 1

On target

MORWELL FALCONS 4
NORTHCOTE CITY 1

BY JOE COLOMBO

MORWELL FALCONS continued on its quest for the league title after downing embattled Northcote City 4-1 at North Crinigan Reserve on Saturday.

After an even opening quarter-of-an-hour, two critical defensive errors by Northcote enabled the Falcons the luxury of a two goal head start.

Firstly, a missed header by George Kouremenos caught 'keeper Mark Tarudia well out of position allowing Kevin Harrison the simple task of slotting home from close range.

One minute later Effie Cassar's shot was misjudged by Harry Mesourini but keeper Tarudia managed to parry, however Gary McMullin was alert enough to swoop on the rebound for Morwell's second goal.

With Andy O'Dell leaving the park due to an ankle injury Morwell was spurred on by a fine solo goal from Tom

Daly, McMullin, on the stroke of half-time found Daly who turned the Northcote defence inside out before chipping a baffled and beaten Tarudia.

Morwell went further ahead in the second half when Harrison sent a fine cross into the path of Billy Wright who volleyed home in classical fashion.

The Falcons waisted several more opportunities but when on target it could not find a way past a desperate Tarudia in Northcote's goals.

With 10 minutes remaining, Northcote managed a consolation goal via the penalty spot for a handball incident, in which striker John Metaxas converted.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds, Upton, Harris, O'Dell (A. Cassar), Roodhouse, Pender, McMullin, Daly, Harrison, Wright (Saldacchino), E. Cassar.

NORTHCOTE: Tarudia, Kouremenos, Anezakis, Mesourini, M. Constantinou, Panagopoulos, J. Iliopoulos, Gymnopoulos, Metaxas, Kakkios (Haltidias), J. Constantinou, Hatzilazaridis.

VOTES: T. Daly (Morwell) - 2
M. Tarudia (North) - 1

Hard Oaks

OAKLEIGH 1
MOOROOLBARK 0

BY
DAVID BEARD

IN A HARD-FOUGHT encounter at Caloola Reserve on Sunday Oakleigh defeated Mooroolbark 1-0 to start their busy mid-season campaign (three games in six days).

Both teams fought like wild tigers in a ferocious first-half which saw referee John Fraser deliver four yellow cards.

The Oaks scored the all-important goal in the seventh minute when Carl Halford chipped a free-kick over the wall to find Danny Zemunik who volleyed past keeper Martin Posar.

Overall, Oakleigh promised much for the rest of the match but failed to convert numerous chances during the second stanza.

The Barkers were firing in patches with David

Brogan ballooning two chances over the bar and David McIntosh who headed centimetres wide 15 minutes before full-time.

Mooroolbark coach Ian Williamson said: The boys lacked concentration in the first half and that this season they were not fully prepared for the Premier League because they only started training two weeks before the start of the season.

Oakleigh tackle Thomastown on Wednesday night in a deferred clash and then St Albans next Saturday will have two sharp training sessions during the week in preparation for its big week.

OAKLEIGH: Alexandropoulos, Gourlis, Theodoropoulos (Arelis), Vagias, Haidaris, Halford (Nicolaides), Leonardos, Stefanou, Goutzioulis, Lujic.

MOOROOLBARK: Posar, A. Byrne, Marshall, Hobson, McIntosh, Cooke, D. Byrne, Cooper, Hays, Brogan, Burton.

VOTES: J. Leonardos (Oaks) - 1
A. Byrne (M'bark) - 1

All square

FAWKNER 0
ALBION 0

BY
VLADO VLAHOVIC

TITLE-CONTENDER Fawknor Azzurri could not skittle a reduced and resilient Albion Turk-Gucu combination and had to settle for a share of the points in their scoreless draw at Jukes Road on Sunday.

Referee Nestor Zacharidis came under close scrutiny from Albion supporters early on in the game when he disallowed a Steve Douglas goal and throughout the match several decisions were hotly disputed especially by the Albion faithful.

Albion's Scott Patterson made a fine run down

the right wing and swung a cross to the far post where striker Andrew Freund fresh-aired his attempt when in a great position to score.

Freund, tried to make up for his miss with a nice through ball to Dale White, who with only keeper Dean Anastasiadis to beat could only pop the ball gently into the hands of the relieved custodian.

Fawknor's Phil Stubbins, also missed a golden opportunity, when he found himself at the end of a long cross at the far post but he scooped his attempt harmlessly over the crossbar.

Skilful Milan Vlatkovic, had an early second half chance for Fawknor but hesitation cost him a chance he carved out for himself after a fine weaving run into the area.

Albion were then de-

nied a couple of penalty claims by referee Zacharidis to incite the vocal Albion faithful.

In the 64th minute, Albion defender Steve Douglas was sent-off for a late tackle on Claude Lucchesi, which seemed a harsh decision for his first offence.

Fawknor, sensing its chance against 10-men, tried to turn the gas up but Albion's back-line led admirably by player-coach Bobby Russell held firm.

FAWKNER: Anastasiadis, Walsh, Tombolato, Vlatkovic, Schipano, Wilson, Lucchesi, Hanna, McBride (Emmanuel), Retre, Stubbins.

ALBION: Toth, Butrakowski, Grimaud, James, Russell, Carter, Douglas, Macleod, White, Freund (Kadlicak), Patterson.

VOTES: R. Tombolato (Fawk) - 1
B. Russell (Albion) - 1

Off side

BULLEEN 2
THOMASTOWN 0

BY
CON STAVROS

BULLEEN bounced back to the winners' circle after a desperate 2-0 victory over an ill-disciplined Thomastown at the Veneto Club on Sunday.

The visitors completed the crucial derby encounter with only nine men after forward Pat Giacherini and defender Steve Farquharson were given their marching orders in the second half by referee John Rutter.

An own goal credited to the unfortunate George Mihos following an excellent shot by Fabio Incantalupo was the only significant highlight in an otherwise lack-lustre second-half.

The second period heralded better action and the entrance of Thomastown captain-coach Ken Murphy to the playing arena who looked to inspire his charges from a central midfield position.

Diminutive winger Stan Thodis had other ideas however, and his penetrating runs and pace were the critical success factors for Bulleen.

Peter Cocker, Victor Cristaldo and Joe O'Donnell sensed the urgency of the situation for Thomastown and tried to force the equaliser before given the daunting task to cover for two dismissed teammates.

A lack of killer instinct cited by coach Andy Bozikas to completely overrun the Thomastown combination, however the final moments Con Pappas added to his mounting goal tally after accepting the rewards of a fine Damian Mori solo run.

BULLEEN: Raponi, Marsan, Krajacic, Valentic, Branov (Tuck), Mori, Thodis, Incantalupo (Venavari), Pappas, Grbac, Ruccia.

THOMASTOWN: Brian, Mihos (Murphy), De Properis, Farquharson, Karic, Di Martino O'Donnell, Giacherini, Cristaldo, Cocker, McAleer.

VOTES: S. Thodis (Bulleen) - 2
P. Cocker (Thomastown) - 1

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Big bash at Paisley Reserve

Vlado Vlahovic's State Preview

CHAMPIONSHIP aspirant Altona Gate meets fellow title contender Fawknor Azzurri in this week's match of the round at Paisley Reserve on Sunday.

The naturally skilled Macedonian combination of Altona, recently reversed its mini-slump when it convincingly disposed of another contender, Croydon City 3-1.

Fawknor should be tougher opposition to handle.

Fawknor has extreme talent and experience on every line with young keeper Dean Anastasiadis in stunning form, a brave custodian with the ability to pull off the uncanny save on a regular basis.

Also lanky defender Robert Tombolato, industrious midfielder Mark Wilson, veteran Claude Lucchesi, skilful Milan Vlatkovic, not to mention NSL experienced forwards Carlos Retre and Phil Stubbins, are all in good touch.

Altona Gate are not short of big names with Marconi loan star John Markovski recently hitting his straps once more, his brother Tom commanding in defence along with Simon Micevski and reliable keeper Alex Micevski also having a fine season.

Midfield wizards Peter Nicoski, Klime Aslimoski and Vlado Tortevski have proven dominant against most opposition and as usual much will depend on the form of these guys in determining the outcome.

ST ALBANS Dinamo takes on Oakleigh in what should be an interesting duel this Saturday.

Dinamo, loaded with Melbourne Croatia loan players, including star striker Ivan Kelic, midfielder Ivan Duzel, centre-back Andrew Marth, Young Soccerroo Mark Silic and fellow youngster Joe Bacak, should give Dinamo the confidence to tackle any Premier League obstacle with optimism for the remainder of the season.

BULLEEN tackles Croydon City in another championship chasing battle at the Veneto complex on Sunday.

A loss for either side could spell the end of title dreams, but even a draw is not a desirable result as both sides try desperately to keep in touch with the league leaders.

Bulleen will probably start favourite with some more impressive recent results and midfielders Fabio Incantolupo, Anthony Grbac and loan player Damiano Mori all in top form.



Northcote's Nick Constantinou (left) and Fawknor's Sammy Emanuelle do battle.

RELEGATION-haunted Mooroolbark meets Morwell Falcons, still in the title race, at Esther Park on Saturday.

The Barkers are on last legs and must start winning games on a regular basis very soon if they want to survive in the competition, whilst the Falcons are still chipping away at Juve

and Fawknor as the title race really begins to heat-up.

THOMASTOWN clings to faint title hopes as it faces financially-troubled Northcote City at Partridge Reserve on Saturday.

Nothing less than victories for the remainder of the season will do for Thomastown and

Northcote will be equally desperate for a positive result as it faces a huge task of its own to beat relegation.

LEAGUE leader Brunswick Juventus should demolish cellar dweller Doveton at Middle Park on Sunday.

Juve trounced the Doves 4-0 in the early season encounter and

there's no reason why Juve cannot repeat the dose.

EMBATTLED also-ran Albion tackles improving Green Gully Ajax at mud-bath Selwyn Park on Sunday.

The heavy conditions will make life difficult for the battling outfits and a result is almost impossible to predict.

THIS WEEK

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE Sat, 20th July Round 20 St Albans v Oakleigh Mooroolbark v Morwell Falcons.	PROV LEAGUE DIV. ONE Sat, 20th July Round 18 Yallourn v Knox Park, Berwick City v Frankston United, Melton v Malvern City, Brunswick City v North Sunshine, Williamstown v South Springvale, Westvale v Altona East, Forest Hill v South Werribee.
Sun, 21st July Bulleen v Croydon City, Bruns Utd Juventus v Doveton, Altona Gate v Fawknor, Albion v Green Gully, Thomastown v Northcote City.	PROV LEAGUE DIV. TWO Sat, 20th July Round 18 Brandon Park v Eastern Park, Brimions, Ballarat bye, Nth Glenroy St Marks v Keysborough, Uni of Melbourne v Laid, Hoopers Crossing v Lyndale United, Meadow Park v East Geelong, Wantima v Mentone United.
STATE LEAGUE DIV. ONE Sat, 20th July Round 22 Ball Park v North Geelong, bye Frankston Pines.	PROV LEAGUE DIV. THREE Sat, 20th July Round 18 East Richmond v Glenroy, Carrum United v Hampton Park, Batman United v Kew Eagles, South Yarra v Malvern United, Ringwood Rovers v Monash University, Port United v Monbulk, Waverley United v St Kilda.
Sun, 21st July Box Hill v Knox City, Werribee v Mordialloc, Westgate v Melbourne City, Western Suburbs v Port Melbourne, Caulfield City v Essendon City, Springvale City v Ringwood City.	PROV LEAGUE DIV. FOUR Sun, 21st July Round 18 Sth Wantima Cretan v Diggers Rest, Collingwood City v East Kew, Beaumaris v Kellor United, Sunshine Park v Malvern Lennox, Rensdale v Latrobe University, Old Scotch bye, Waverley Wanderers v Oakleigh United.
STATE LEAGUE DIV. TWO Sat, 20th July Round 22 Altona City v Suns Heights, Polonia Broadmeadows City v Kellor, Chelsea v Melbourne Rovers, Sunbury United v Richmond Waverley City v Nunawading City, Brighton v Geelong, Sandringham City v Benlough Green, Clifton Hill v Dandenong.	PROV LEAGUE DIV. FIVE Sun, 21st July Round 18 Epping Concorde v Cam Grammar Old Boys, Broadmeadows Utd v Albert Park Macabati, Balwyn City v Endeavour Hills, Upfield v Thornbury Furlen Utd, bye Doncaster Inter, Northern United v Melbourne University, RMIT v Diamond Valley.
STATE LEAGUE DIV. THREE Sat, 20th July Round 20 Glarinda v East Bruns, Ivanhoe, Moreland/Coburg v Eltham/Dia, Valley Utd, Clayton v Heidelberg City, Corio — Geelong Utd v Laoc United, Fitzroy City v Moorabbin City, Springvale Utd v Oakleigh Suburbs.	
STATE LEAGUE DIV. FOUR Sat, 20th July Round 20 Hawthorn Citizens v Karling Utd, Cranbourne v Regent, bye Rosanna, Hamlyn Rangers v Springvale Condors, Mornington v South Dandenong, Lang-	

Engine room Pete a real dynamo

PREMIER League title aspirant Altona Gate owes plenty to its dynamic midfielder Peter Nicoski.

The 27 year-old is experiencing his best season in Australia since arriving from Europe nearly three years ago, with the ABSW Most Exciting Player of the Year Award votes an accurate reflection of his success.

Although NSL club Preston Makedonia chased Nicoski on his arrival in this country, the spotlight has rarely been focused on his charming talent.

Until this season, that is.

Nicoski clearly has what it takes to play in the NSL, and he wants to make the move before it may be too late.

"I really believe I

can play in Australia's elite competition", he told ABSW.

"I am playing as well as I did a few years ago when selected in a representative eleven back in Yugoslavia", said the former First Division player.

Altona Gate spokesman Tony Siskovski raves about the importance of Nicoski in the

club's quest for Premier League honours.

"He's been a tremendous success in midfield all season and he is one of the main reasons for Altona Gate's championship challenge", says Siskovski.

"I believe he will figure prominently in the Gold Medal court."

"But, above all, he is a lovely man and a

fine ambassador for the game".

Nicoski, recently a victim of the recession after being laid off work, is nothing if not a fighter and a battler.

All he craves is the chance to prove himself at the highest level and, after a sensational 1991 Victorian season, he may get his chance.



ALTONA IN ACTION



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GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES

Lorenz joins Brugge clan

LORENZ Kindtner, the elegant 19 year-old midfielder play-maker of the Australian youth team, has signed to play alongside Aussie Paul Okon at Belgian club FC Brugge next season.

Kindtner's transfer — arranged by Brugge agent Israel Moaz — comes hot on the heels of his magnificent effort in Portugal, when the young Sunshine George Cross star blitzed world-class opponents and helped the Aussies into the semi-finals of the World Youth Championships.

After rejecting two initial offers by Moaz, Sunshine accepted a transfer deal believed to be in the region of \$250,000, just short of the figure outlayed by Brugge for Okon.

Kindtner's signing-on fee is believed to be in the vicinity of \$150,000.

The deal was confirmed last week, just days after Okon made headlines with his move to the same club.

Kindtner leaves for Belgium at the end of this week and will link up with Okon in Belgium, where the pair are expected to share accommodation as they prepare for the 1991-92 season.

Brugge, which recently sold Aussie star Frank Farina to Italian outfit Bari for \$5 million, has signed the pair on three-year contracts.

In Kindtner's case, the contract stipulates that, should the player decide to return to Australia, George Cross has the option to buy Kindtner back for \$30,000.



LORENZ KINDTNER

For the former junior Victorian representative and AIS product, the news of the transfer was still sinking in late last week.

Kindtner, nicknamed 'The Kid' at Skinner Reserve, was shaking his head in disbelief at

the transfer.

"It still hasn't hit me yet", a stunned Kindtner told ABSW.

"Dad is over the moon, but my mum, well, you know what mums are like..."

"But I think it helps that we have relatives in

Germany — lots of them, so I suppose I'll be seeing a bit of them.

"It's certainly daunting — it'll be different alright".

Kindtner, rated as "all class" by Raul Blanco, is still reeling at the events of the past two years as he has been elevated to NSL ranks, starred in the green and gold and now signed by a crack European side.

He still admits he finds it tough to handle his new-found stardom, and says he was stunned at the reaction to the return of he and his team mates from the Portugal campaign.

"It didn't really hit me when I was there (in Portugal)", he says of the team's achievements.

"But coming home really topped things off — it was unbelievable."

"It really hit home when Sunshine George Cross held a function for Kris (Trajanovski), Kevin (Muscat) and myself after we returned."

"The place was packed out and the reaction was incredible."

Kindtner, whose displays in Portugal put him in the world spotlight for the first time, rates himself as "pretty lucky" to have secured the Brugge contract.

"There were a few other agents sniffing around and discussing deals, but they seemed to be more into getting me trials at different clubs", he explained.

"This club wanted to actually sign me up, so it's a big break."

"Having said that, I know there's still a long way to go and lots of hard work to be done."

TALENTED Melbourne Croatia midfielder Mark Talajic is set to join team mates Joe Caleta and Ivan Kelic for trials with Standard Liege of Belgium, in pursuit of a professional career.

Talajic, yet another Melbourne Croatia player to have completed his best-ever season at NSL level during the that club's run to the grand final, recently finished runner-up to Andrew Marth in Melbourne Croatia's annual best player award.

Not some mean feat when you consider that Talajic spent the best part of the previous year out of action after an interior cruciate knee ligament.

Talajic has never been light-on in the talent department, having represented Victoria and played in the green and gold at under-16 level.

But now, after a period in the wilderness, he is probably playing the best football of his career, prompting him to hope he can soon renew his acquaintance with the Australian team.

"My ambition has always been to be a Socceroo", he says.

"And I'm desperate after having missed the Olympic (under-23) squad".

Talajic might yet get his chance after coming off a sensational finals series.

Although his club crashed at the final hurdle, Talajic was magnificent for Melbourne Croatia during the play-offs.

The left-sided midfielder with the stinging shot, a tireless worker who uses his bulk to advantage, displayed brilliant touch in the finals and looked surprisingly fast for a player with a



JOE CALETA

body built like a battle-tank.

"I consciously worked on that aspect (pace) of my game and I think it has paid off", he told ABSW.

"I've shortened my steps and trained by running up and down stairways".

A pro-contract in Belgium would settle the argument as to Talajic's worth as a player.

There is no doubt he is still considered far too inconsistent, although those close to the Somers Street camp rate his efforts last season as a key to the club's grand season.

He is philosophical about the chance of a professional career.

"If things happen, they happen", he explained.

"It's a great challenge and I'll just be giving it the best I can."

"If it doesn't work out for me I'll be happy to return to Melbourne Croatia."

"It's a great club and, although I'm disappointed to see Ken Worden go, I'm sure we can bounce back next season".

Talajic, something of an introvert off the park, certainly comes out of his shell once he hits the park.

His chance to truly make his mark is now only a matter of weeks away.

THE vital postponed round 16 Victorian Premier League game between Thomastown and Oakleigh is set down for decision tomorrow night (Wednesday), under lights at Thomastown's Partridge Reserve home ground.

Last Sunday's first division clash between North Geelong and Westgate was postponed indefinitely by the VSF.

The federation cancelled the game fearing political agitation inspired by the current problems in Yugoslavia.

DUE to a technical problem, ABSW was unable to print the round 18 votes for the Victorian Premier League's Most Exciting Player of the Year Award in last week's edition.

The innovative award, supported by leading sports stockist Pascoe Vale Sports Scene, will be presented at the prestigious Bill Fleming Medal dinner later this year.

To the winner goes the spoils, a cheque for \$500 and a magnificent trophy.

Last weekend's round 18 votes were:

ST ALBANS v FAWKNER - C.Katsikidis (SIA) 1, P.Stubbs (Fawks) 2;
MCCOOLBARK v GREEN GULLY - C.Burton (Moor) 1, K.Smart (GG) 2;
JUVENUS v BULLEEN - F.Diamicis (Juve) 2, F.incantalupo (Bull) 1;
ALTONA GATE v CROYDON CITY - J.Markovski (AG) 2, J.McKinley (Croy) 1;
ALBION v DOVETON - S.Douglas (Alb) 2, Hodgson (Dove) 1;
NORTHCOTE CITY v OAKLEIGH - J.Panagopoulos (Nth) 2, Leonardos (Oak) 1;
THOMASTOWN v MORWELL - FALCONS - N.DIMartino (Thom) 1 - I.Roodhouse (MF) 1.

Holland Park gone!

VICTORIAN third division club Holland Park has had a three year suspension from competition lifted by a Victorian Soccer Federation Appeals Board.

But the club has been landed with one of the toughest fines in VSF history as the VSF cracks down on crowd violence at local matches.

Holland Park has

been fined \$5,000 for its part in brawls at a third division match back in April.

As well, it forfeits a disciplinary bond of \$2,500, making a total of \$7,500 payable to the federation by September 30 this year if the club is to re-appear in Victorian fixture lists next season.

The appeals board handed down its decision last week, a fortnight after Holland Park was initially ex-

pelled from VSF competition for three years by VSF Investigations and Disciplinary Committee.

Last week's appeals board found the club guilty as charged, but ruled that the suspension from competition last only until the end of the 1991 season.

The Turkish-backed club, which has been before the tribunal on a number of occasions on disciplinary charges, will also be required to provide two policemen

at every game in which it participates in the 1992 season.

Clubs set down to play Holland Park in third division matches this season will have those matches recorded as 1-0 victories over Holland Park.

With the VSF transfer season now closed, players registered with the Holland Park club will be unable to move to other clubs for the duration of the 1991 season.

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A goal in million

WORLD football has never heard of a player called Tony Genovese.

Indeed, most of Australian football would never have heard of him.

He is 25, a striker, now beginning to consolidate a position in mid-field for his club in NSW State League.

Just under medium height, he is nippy and has neat skills.

Generally, there is nothing remarkable about him.

His career to date probably reached its zenith when as a youngster he was picked to play for Apia in the national league.

His promising career was then cruelly curtailed by a bad knee injury, from which he took a con-

siderable time to recover.

Since that time he has battled to re-establish himself in the NSW State League with Rockdale's Sydney Macedonia and this season with Southern Districts as a \$500 signing.

Last weekend the \$500 player scored a million dollar goal.

I was privileged to witness this unremarkable player score one of the most remarkable goals I have ever seen in a life time of football.

And like most goals of this nature it inspired his team to unsuspected quality of play.

His team, from being two down against league leader Sutherland went on to draw 3-3 in their best performance of the year with their most inexperienced team of the year.



Newcastle won the game and the Cup.

Jim McKay, playing for Australia against South Korea in Hong Kong, scored a great long distance goal that took the Aussies into our one and only World Cup finals in 1974.

Most of the memorable goals in world football that live in the memory are long distance shots.

Yet, for many, including myself the greatest goal of all time was that of Maradona in the 1986 World Cup.

It was made up of brilliant dribbling, wonderful balance, direct penetration and incisive finishing.

Maradona, despite his current woes in the depths into which he has fallen, will be remembered for that goal.

He will be remembered for the great things he has done as (my opinion) the greatest footballer who has so far graced this planet.

It is not for his weaknesses that he will be remembered, but for his utter brilliance on the soccer field.

I remember vividly via television the Napoli team in the dressing room after another Maradona inspired triumph, singing in unison ... "we know Maradona ... we know Maradona ... we know Maradona."

To be in his aura was enough, even for great stars in their own right. They were saying they were privileged to play with such a marvellous talent.

It is true we seek to be in the aura of greatness.

It makes us feel good.

Inside of all people is the capacity for greatness, be it a great statesman, a great sportsman, a great father or mother, husband or wife.

At times in our lives we feel the greatness inside us.

All of us at sometime have day-dreamed of being great.

Author James Allan declared: ... "he who cherishes a grand ideal in his heart will one day realise it..."

Tony Genovese had a moment of soccer greatness last weekend and its influence was still with him at training this week.

He's sounding a bit jovial, a bit cocky. I hope he's not going to ask for a rise in wages.



CHARLIE YANKOS

It is a fact that human beings can be influenced, moved, inspired to great achievement by the example of others.

While it is true that there are innate weaknesses in all mankind that express themselves in bad deeds, the desire to do good is stronger.

Tony Genovese tells me that since his remarkable goal at the weekend he has had numerous people congratulating him on the feat.

Many, after reading about it in ABSW, or hearing about it from friends, have rang him up to congratulate him.

So what sort of goal was it that so inspired his team mates and brought him such adulation?

Well, the beginning was unremarkable, he picked up a ball in midfield, crossed the half-way line, looking for someone to pass to.

No-one showed and he drew back his right foot.

As his coach, watching him from the half way line, I thought "oh no, not again!"

Tony fancies his long range shooting ability and too many times in training and competition games I had told him to try to get closer in on goal before shooting, that it

was a better percentage.

Now, seemingly a mile away from the goal, scuttling forward at pace, he let rip.

Because of the distance, despite the prodigious power, we had time to watch the round ball zoom in a straight line like a scud missile over the head of a startled goalkeeper and rip high into the netting.

A roar went up, a roar of triumph from the people in the small stand behind me.

We all knew we had seen something special, something extraordinary, something we will recall when we think of soccer, something Tony Genovese will never forget.

The goal's extraordinary quality was the distance and the power. There was no dipping as power diminished. The ball zoomed at great speed high into the top right hand corner of the net, shaking the entire netting.

It was similar to the great strike on goal with which Charlie Yankos scored against Argentina.

The distances were similar.

When you see the Yankos strike in slow motion on television, as it has been shown many times, it seems to go forever.

There was no slow motion replays for us out at Rangers Stadium in the Fairfield region of Sydney, only our eyes and now our memories.

But I thought this was a better strike.

Genovese was running at pace, Charlie was static when he hit what I also consider was the best free kick that I have seen.

Hitting a ball on the run is more difficult than when the ball is stationary.

Some of the great goals in world football, unlike this one, have sealed a major footballing event that was witnessed by countless thousands and captured on film, or television.

The acknowledged greatest goal ever scored in the FA Cup at Wembley, England was by Jackie Milburn against Stanley Matthews' Blackpool.

It was in the 1950s, was in the stand watching, having just signed as a young apprentice with Jackie's team, Newcastle United.

Midfielder Ernie Taylor back heeled the ball in a tight situation outside the box and from almost a standing position Milburn, an international and the most popular ever United player, belted the ball high into the net.

World Cup is big business



WEST GERMANY'S 1990 WORLD CUP WINNING SQUAD

MasterCard International are now a major sponsor of the World Cup and will use the soccer extravaganza as a platform to launch a new global identity for its credit card.

The marketing program is valued as high as \$75 million.

"This is the first execution in delivering and developing our global vision," said Jim John, MasterCard's senior VP-worldwide planning and development. "In the past, we've executed locally and as a result we have many faces, and some would say that we have no face."

It's the largest sponsorship ever for MasterCard, said Richard Child, senior VP-worldwide marketing.

The deal spans three years and allows MasterCard to place boards at stadiums hosting international soccer tournaments leading up to the World Cup matches in 1994.

Those tournaments start next May and will be held in such countries as Italy, Ecuador, Portugal and Sweden.

MasterCard said the sponsorship offers product exclusivity for credit cards, travellers' cheques

and financial services, and was signed last week with the Federation Internationale de Football Association.

The sponsorship will be supported by massive advertising promotional and public relations efforts that will include everything from "network TV to hot air balloons" emblazoned with the MasterCard logo, Mr John said.

MasterCard paid an estimated \$15 million for the sponsorship rights, sources in the US said.

Mr John said MasterCard and its 29,000 member banks will spend "two and four times" the cost of the sponsorship on marketing support, which translates to between \$30 million and \$60 million.

That would bring the total cost of the three-year effort to between \$45 million and \$75 million.

The amount of support depends on how much MasterCard's member banks spend on the effort, which often depends on how well individual teams fare in the competition.

Lintas: New York is MasterCard's agency, ISL Marketing, Lucerne, Switzerland, is the soccer association's worldwide marketing partner for the World Cup.

As an official World Cup sponsor, MasterCard can advertise on stadium boards placed at each of 52 World Cup matches to be held in 12 US cities during the summer of 1994.

The US location for the World Cup final will be determined in late 1991 or early 1992.

MasterCard also has first option to buy advertising time on 1994 World Cup English-language telecasts. US broadcast rights haven't yet been awarded.

Including the tournaments preceding the World Cup matches, MasterCard's sponsorship will provide the company with media exposure at 229 matches at more than 20 events worldwide between now and 1994.

Although MasterCard

was an official sponsor of the 1990 World Cup championship in Italy, it didn't buy stadium advertising and wasn't able to garner maximum media exposure, Mr John said.

This time, MasterCard said it started advertising on stadium boards as early as last May. Promotions and PR will also kick off this spring, but TV commercials in the US won't break before 1992.

MasterCard rival Visa USA is an official world wide sponsor of the 1992 Olympics

MasterCard's World Cup sponsorship is designed to build brand awareness, stimulate card acquisition, provide business opportunities to MasterCard's member banks and enhance MasterCard's image as a global payment system, Mr John said.

The marketing challenge will be to create excitement among its member banks and consumers in the US, where the number of soccer enthusiasts pales in comparison to those in Europe and Latin America, he said.

But since the US is the host, it will be easier to generate momentum than for previous World Cup events, he said.

Lintas is now developing creative ideas for the TV support that will likely focus on MasterCard's world wide acceptance, Mr John said. The "creativity" in TV spots in the US to support its 1990 World Cup sponsorship used the "Master the moment" theme.

Cardholder benefits that have been previously emphasized such as "security

and comfort, convenience and flexibility" will also be mentioned in new ads, Mr John said.

Lintas will buy media space on a market-by-market basis. MasterCard will provide its member banks with creative ideas, and its larger banks will place media locally through the own ad agencies, Mr John said.

The World Cup sponsorship is part of MasterCard's new global direction adopted in 1990.

"As the Iron Curtain falls and the world gets smaller, everyday people are now worldwide travellers, (and) we want to say MasterCard is universal money," Mr John said.

In 1990, MasterCard

said, its total charge volume hit \$200 billion, a 22% increase over 1989, with 53% of total worldwide volume generated by non-US cardholders.

That marked the first time non-US charge volume outpaced US volume. Card acceptance grew 17% to 9.4 million locations world wide and card circulation rose 11% to 163 million.

Their number's up



AS a gesture of goodwill for the spectators and media reporters, players at the 1994 World Cup will wear their number on the front of their jersey and their name on the back.

FIFA have compiled with a request from several national coaches to allow the two substitutes to be chosen from among all of the eleven reserves.

Hitherto five possible substitutes have

had to be designated on the team line-up sheet before the start of the match.

This request has, however, still to be approved by the body responsible for changes in the laws of the game, the International Football Association Board.

By the deadline for applications, 26 towns had made a bid to host the games in the USA.

That constitutes a record number in the World Cup so far.

The following towns

have submitted bids: Atlanta, Boston/Foxboro, Charlotte, North Carolina, Chicago, Columbus, Ohio, Dallas, Denver, Detroit/Pontiac, Honolulu, Houston, Kansas City, Missouri, Knoxville, Los Angeles/Pasadena, Miami, New Haven, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York City, New Orleans, Orlando/Kissimmee-St. Cloud, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland/Corvallis, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Tampa Bay and Washington D.C.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



City will be staggering!

ADELAIDE City is likely to stagger its start to pre-season training.

Coach Zoran Matic and assistant John Perin will talk soon over their requirements for the new season which kicks off on October 6.

"We have several players who have been playing in different competitions," Matic said.

"We might call them in to start on August 12 while the rest will begin on August 5."

One man signed and ready for the start is Hungarian import Robert Csoboth.

He signed a two-year deal when he joined City at the start of last

NEW West Adelaide coach Vic Fernandez asks only one thing of home fans — show patience.

"That is what we need in games and for the season," said Fernandez who, surprisingly, only has signed a one-year contract to coach the club in its return to the National Soccer League from October.

"If a game is at 0-0 and we show patience, we still can win it. If we lose patience we are likely to go down. That is the way for the fans, too. They should show patience with us."

Fernandez, who was named as the new

West Adelaide chief last week, met influential clubmen, supporters and the media at Hellenic House.

"The NSL is my No 1 priority. I will help in other areas if I have time to do so but the NSL is our main concern," he said. "I will need all people 100 per cent behind me. I probably will have to look at an assistant coach to back me."

Whether present Foundation SA League coach Alby Kidd could be that man will have to be determined.

Fernandez said Kurt Reynolds was the only current West Adelaide player he knew.

"It will take some time to assess just what the playing strength is," he said.

"There should be no problems if I want to attract one or two players from overseas and interstate.

"My assessment of the team largely will determine how I proceed. I may need to spend time travelling, looking at players. But I will need six to eight weeks getting the team in shape for the start of the NSL."

"With several players playing at present we shall have to work out a different pre-season approach. Some players might have to be rested from the Sta-

te League in readiness for the NSL."

Fernandez said he was happy to join West Adelaide. He had been impressed with how they had carried out talks with him and felt he had 100 per cent backing.

"I only signed for one year because that gives me time to look at them and then time to look at me," he said.

"We acknowledge, though, it is more than a one-year job."

"I would like the team to play good soccer but the realities of the NSL require you combine good soccer with hard tackling, work and aggression."

Fernandez has built good rapport with some of Australia's outstanding young talent but is wary of introducing too much youth to West's line-up.

"It is good to bring in young players but you have to have them blend with more experienced men," Fernandez said.

"I haven't been in the NSL for the past couple of years but I have worked with players in the national teams who have been in the NSL."

"But it could be very expensive to bring some of the top young players here with the transfer fees they are likely to command."

Fernandez is sure

the NSL has improved over the past 10 years.

"It certainly is much more professional. Coaches are not so easily sacked as they once were and the playing standard is much better," Fernandez said.

The affable little Argentinian obviously knows the game. Time will tell if he can handle the cauldron heat of the NSL with West.

COACH Brian Boyd's battlers from Elizabeth are keeping their noses in front in the race for the vital single promotion spot from Division Two.

And the playing squad is determined to try to earn that promotion dream for the club hierarchy.

"We are working hard towards it," Boyd said after a do-or-die 1-0 win against Cumberland at Bailey Reserve.

"We got two good points on Saturday and we have a good group of boys here. They have good spirit and work hard to each other."

"The club wants to go up and we are determined to try for it. We know we will need to strengthen if we get there but these boys are battling hard for that chance."

Boyd, while coaching City, also plays up north with Port Pirie Virtus.

He has as travelling companions and teammates Kevin Mitchell and new Virtus signing Harry Bell.

Irving Smyth made his debut from Campbelltown against Cumberland and City could be boosted soon by the arrival of giant 'Blue-nose' strike Colin McLean from amateur side Valley View.

If his scoring talents mirror his mighty stature, Elizabeth has a winner.

The loss was Cumberland's first in eight games. The new look Foxes in all green strip, trimmed with gold, have worked hard for coach Norman Lees.

Cumberland's loss might have toppled it out of the promotion hunt.

Key defender Bernie Bridges, too, might be missing in a couple of weeks. He has a six-week job opportunity in Roxby Downs.

Still in the promotion race are Zoran Matic's second-placed Port, boosted by brilli-



ZORAN MATIC (right) WITH BUGSY NYSKOHUS

ant teenagers Richie Alagich and James Musci and newcomer from Apac Andy Knowles, and quietly improving Campbelltown, under Jimmy Campbell.

STAND by for the Sharks.

Hellas looks sure to be called West Adelaide in the new NSL but could have the colourful nickname added for promotional purposes.

Letter heads, logos and emblems could bear a shark design — appropriately with major sponsor George Fiorenzou, of Distinctive Homes, having a big reputation in local game fishing.

With the shark motif being linked to be the club, West would have limitless promotional activities through T-shirts, badges, posters etc.

A blue and white adaptation of Sydney sportswear firm Patrick's King Roo national team strip also could be the new team outfit.

IMPORT Pawel Weiczorek could be a long-term casualty for Polonia.

Specialists will de-

termine the extent of his knee ligament damage. He was carried off in the game against Blackwood.

EXPERIENCED Jimmy Turnbull is just one "new" face among the Foxes at Cumberland.

Former Birkalla utility player Craig Leith has returned from a stint in the States.

And industrious midfielder Mike Deegenhart is back from his tennis commitments.

Former AIS and Azzurri player, police constable Graham McMillan also has been called to duty.

And the club is encouraged by former skipper Daryl 'Harpo' Evans' fighting return after a serious ankle injury.

TOP SA teenager Heath Robertson currently is on tour in South America.

The former Salisbury midfielder, who looks to have a big future in the game, is in an Australian Institute of Sport squad playing seven or eight games in Argentina and Chile. He is scheduled to arrive back in Sydney on July 17.

Robertson, 18 on

Christmas Day, has enjoyed this year's stint at the 'soccer academy' in Canberra. According to his mother, Dulcie, Heath is likely to 'sign up' again when his contract expires in December.

"They had a meeting and it looks like the AIS boys will be asked to stay to try to becoming part of our squad for the 1993 world youth championships in Australia," she said.

The AIS players could form the nucleus of the squad and Robertson wants to be part of that. A squad of hopefuls is likely to be called into camp by coach Les Scheinflug in December.

FORMER West Adelaide defender Peter Tymczyszyn has joined State League club Beograd under the name Tyson.

He changed his name under deed poll.

The tall defender has been playing with Brisbane Olympic.

RADIO SRPH has begun new, extensive coverage of soccer in SA.

Former Newcastle NSL player Garry Dooly will host the show.



ALBY KIDD IN ACTION



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Jean Paul in quiet start



JEAN PAUL DE MARIGNY

FORMER Socceroo Jean Paul de Marigny had an inauspicious start to Queensland Soccer when he was booked just 15 minutes into his debut with Brisbane City.

To add salt to the wound, City's hopes of a revival with the Marconi NSL star in the line-up failed to eventuate as they were thrashed 3-0 by Mount Gravatt.

The result left City anchored in the relegation zone and in danger

of dropping out of the top Queensland Division for the first time since their return from the NSL six years ago.

De Marigny has been signed on loan until August 3 when he will return to Sydney to begin pre-season training. His departure will mean he will miss the final three rounds of the XXXX League, which could be vital in City's bid for survival.

But the club is hoping his experience can bolster the team and pick up enough points in the next five weeks to dispel fears of relegation.

De Marigny was booked for dissent after repeatedly questioning the referee's rulings in the opening minutes. The card was enough to get de Marigny's mind

back on the job but he quickly discovered he was only a one-man band against a hard-working Hawks midfield.

Mount Gravatt used their extra share of midfield ball to set up speedy striker Andrew Armitage and John Brown who shared the goals.

The result left City in third-bottom position, just a point above fel-

low battlers Nerang and Acacia Ridge — with two to be relegated.

The relegation race is set to be one of the real interests in the final stages of the season.

Most pundits have already written off Acacia Ridge, who sacked their coach last month, but the blue army showed they are not yet finished with a gutsy scoreless draw with Coalstars last week.

But as often happens to a struggling side, just when you get a point, so too does your fellow stragglers. Nerang negated any ground the Ridge gained with a surprise 1-1 draw with North Star — their second this season against the former champions.

With five rounds remaining, it would be a brave prediction to name the two relegated sides now.

Acacia Ridge have got to be warm favourites for the drop given that they have played one more game than City and Nerang. The Ridge also has a tough finish to the year and at best, probably could count on getting only another four points.

They could come from a draw with long-time rivals Pine Rivers and win in the final fixture against Taringa, although no-one would

relish the thought of going to Speare Park needing three points to survive.

Other than those games, it is hard to see Dave Richardson's side getting anything from remaining games against Rochdale (away), Lions (home) or, perhaps to a lesser degree, Easts (home).

City's game in hand is against Rochdale, which is hardly a bankable three pointer, while they meet Rovers again in the final round, a game in which the Southsiders could be playing for the premiership.

City's best chances of survival points look to be early next month when they play Taringa and Coalstars on consecutive weeks, although neither team is an easy prospect on their own ground. A Spencer Park clash with the fading Brisbane Croatia in the second last round also offers City some hope.

Nerang have a horror finish to the year, playing the top three sides, Rochdale, Lions and Pine Rivers in their final three rounds.

Their only hopes for survival rest on victories over the next two weeks against Coalstars at Bundamba and Croatia at home.

GREG RUSSELL LOOKS AT THE SUNSHINE STATE

Rochdale on crest of wave



Rochdale coach John Stewart

BOOM Southside club Rochdale is on the brink of fulfilling its much-touted potential.

Rovers are now the only side in with a chance of winning Queensland Soccer's triple crown — the championship, the grand final and the Ampol Cup.

Rochdale, who boast one of the largest junior contingents in the State and among the best sporting facilities of any code in Queensland, are finally stamping themselves on the park.

The club has always looked to threaten since its promotion from the Second Division in the mid-80s but always seemed to lack the experience to go on with the job.

That has all changed now under the coaching of former Lions, Heidelberg and Preston NSL man John Stewart.

Stewart, a former Queensland captain, has instilled a new professional pride in performance ethic that has made Rochdale a force in the XXXX League. Stewart leads by example and at 32 is still running the Rovers midfield with his tireless work-rate.

He bought shrewdly in the off-season, picking the eyes out of cash-strapped Brisbane City in particular to add experience to a Rovers side which in the past had often asked for two much from its home-

grown youngsters. The Stewart blend has been a success this season and Rochdale have been atop the table for a month.

They reinforced that position a week ago with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over the talented Pine Rivers. The result was significant. It came a week after a humiliating 1-3 loss to fellow title contenders Lions.

In a clash of the Rovers, Rochdale Rovers meet Taringa Rovers in the second Cup semi on Wednesday, July 31. Croatia play Mount Gravatt in the other semi-final.

On league form, Rochdale should be easy winners, but Taringa are known fighters.

Taringa have never won a major trophy but came close to the Ampol Cup last year. They are likely to have learned from that experience and will relish a match without the threat of relegation hanging on the result.

The other semi-final looks evenly poised. Croatia have been slipping down the table in recent weeks after being the best performed team in the first round.

At the same time, Mount Gravatt showed sizzling form to beat Brisbane City 3-0 a fortnight ago, but inconsistency has been the Hawks' toughest opponent this year.

The semi winners will clash in the final at Perry Park on August 17-18.

Granny belters in cup

THREE clubs from Brisbane's "Granny Belt" are in with a chance of cup glory in the Second Division Nanda Cup competition.

Former high flyers Grange Thistle, Newmarket and Mitchelton — whose junior strength has dropped off in recent years in proportion with the aging of their local population — are now just one step away from a chance of 1991 silverware.

The three clubs, who are based within kilo-

metres of each other, are in the semi-finals of the competition, along with former Bayside giants Wynnum.

In a real local derby Thistle takes on Newmarket in one semi, while Mitchy, who are again riding high but now in the Third Division, meet Wynnum.

The games will be played at Perry Park on Wednesday July 24. A drawn game will result in extra time and then penalties to decide the finalists.

The Lower Division Qantas Cup also is progressing towards the

money stages with the early rounds providing their share of upsets and goals.

Five "Country" sides are among the 34 remaining teams which go into the third round this week. They are perennial Qantas Cup battlers BeeGees, Maroochydore, Buderim, Broadbeach and Cup newcomers Mudgeer-baba.

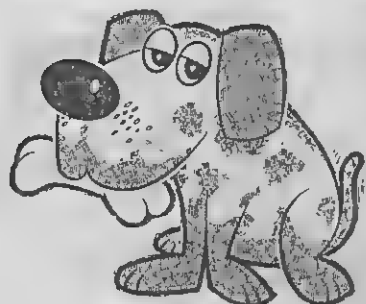
Broadbeach, the Cup holders, had a real scare in their second round match when held to a 2-2 draw by Moggill Division Five. The Coast side scrapped through 6-5 on penalties.

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JUNIOR JOTTINGS



AFTER a 2-0 victory over Turramurra on the Monday, Cromer High from the Northern Beaches, travelled to Carlingford on the Friday for a fourth round Commonwealth Bank clash against the locals.

Play was very even during the first half, but, it was Cromer, who scored first when Jason Hall scored a lovely goal with a shot from the edge of the box into the top right hand corner of the net.

The lead was short lived as Carlingford came back to equalise before the interval.

Early in the second period Cromer regained the lead when a long ball was played over the defence into the path of Chris Meakin and he scored at the far post.

The scores remained the same for most of the second half till just before the end Colin Stocks was upended in the area for Andrew Riches to calmly put away the penalty and seal the victory for Cromer.

Just on the whistle a poor clearance from the Carlingford goalie found Colin Stocks, who placed the ball past the stranded keeper into the empty net to bring up the final 4-1 scoreline and a date with Epping in the re-

gional final.

For the majority of the first half of the final Cromer could only defend desperately as the favourite, Epping, controlled the midfield and made all the running but were restricted to shooting from a long way out, which barely troubled Cromer keeper Matt Seagg.

In the first half the Cromer defence — Andrew Riches, Mario Luccia, Matt Beech and Franz Schram — were magnificent, defying all that Epping could throw at them.

Cromer grew in confidence the longer the second continued and began to cause problems for the Epping defence, with the strong running of Colin Stocks and little Franky Meciti.

Two minutes from the end, it was Franky who beat two defenders on a diagonal run, which ended with him being chopped down just outside the box.

From the resultant free kick Andrew Riches curled the ball around the wall and just inside the post for a glorious Cromer winner.

Cromer are through to the last sixteen in the State and now travel to Newcastle to meet the strong Merewether side, attempting to go one better than last year and reach the quarter-finals for the first time.

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP



WHALAN High from Sydney's far western suburbs have been one of the success stories of this year's Commonwealth Bank Shield.

The team, whose average age is just 14 and with some girls playing their first season of soccer, has fought hard in their matches against much older, bigger and more experienced teams.

Wins against Katoomba 5-1, the fancied Colo side 4-2, Blaxland 4-0 and Kingswood 3-0 saw them reach the Met West final. In the final against Nepean scores were level 1-1 at full-time but showing great heart, typical of this young team, they scored twice in extra time to win 3-1.

Four girls represented the Mt Druitt zone at the Regional Championships held at Parklea. Coach Sharon Brown is delighted with the girls' performances this year and is eagerly awaiting their next game against Jannali Girls and more success in the years to come.

The next opponents, Jannali Girls, have been one of the leading teams in Met East Region over the past three seasons, twice winning the Region and making the final on the other occasion.

They are a much older squad, with the majority of the team coming from Year 10, 11 and 12.

Only one girl Belinda West, was selected in the regional team and Coach David Jirsa prides himself on the fact that they are a team of "no stars" with everyone working for each other.

The team has also had some impressive performances with wins

over Fort Street 11-0, South Sydney 9-0 and Caringbah 5-1 before an excellent 1-0 win over the favoured Kirrawee side in the final, thanks to a Belinda West goal.

Paul on road to recovery

PAUL Israel, the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup co-ordinator for the NSW Mid North Coast is out of hospital and on the road to recovery.

Paul is a Social Science teacher at Orara High School, Coffs Harbour who, while attending a sports carnival was struck down by a stray bullet.

The shot was allegedly fired by a young student, who had been sent home earlier in the day.

Paul was rushed to intensive care and for a time things looked pretty grim. However, his indomitable spirit allied to the wonderful support of family, friends, colleagues and skilled surgeons, pulled him through the ordeal.

He is now convalescing at home where his wife Robyn and their two children are keeping a ready eye on him.

On Friday, prior to the end of Term Two, he had a real boost when his open soccer team downed Richmond River (Lismore) in a Coast final of the Commonwealth Bank Soccer Cup.

After the game, the boys paid him a visit with a kick by kick description of the game which they won by penalties.

Belinda and Janine Cunningham have been prolific strikers, scoring 20 goals between them. The midfield of Judy Lumb, Kate Ferguson, Scosha Wasserman and Swedish exchange student Anna Mogren have worked tirelessly and provided good service for the front runners, whilst the defence led by Tanya Blair and Rachael McArthur have been rock solid, only conceding a single goal so far.

The two babies of the team, Kate Ferguson and Renelle Heard-like their Whalan counterparts, are to be congratulated for the way they have matched skill on the ball and determination in tackles with girls often many years their senior.

As this is the last year of Jannali Girls before amalgamation with the Boys' school, coach David Jirsa is hoping to go out by making the quarter-finals. For only the second time in the school's history and perhaps progressing even further.

Educated at Newcastle Tech. High — now Merewether — Paul taught at a number of Newcastle/Hunter schools but he is best remembered at Dungog High (of Doug Walters origins) where he was largely instrumental for putting soccer on the map in that school.

Everyone is hoping that the Israels will now have a change of fortunes as Robyn, a year or so ago, was involved in a serious car accident that had her sidelined for many months.

Through Australian and British Soccer Weekly, they both wish to thank all the soccer people for their support with calls, cards and offers of assistance.

Cardiff High apparently doesn't believe in doing things easily if their score lines are to be considered. Playing in the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup they received a Round One bye then pipped Belmont 2-1, Morisset 1-0 with a late goal, Warners Bay 2-1 after extra time and Woy Woy 1-0 in the Area Seven final.

In their pre-quarter final match they meet the strong St Dominics, Penrith in a Lindsay Hewison promoted match at Francis Park Blacktown on Monday evening July 22.

COMMONWEALTH BANK SHIELD



THE South Coast Regional Finals of the Open Boys' (Cup) and the Open Girls' (Shield) competitions will be held on Wednesday, 24th July.

The venue is the main ground of Brandon Park, which has been provided by the Wollongong City Soccer Club, with the kick-off times being: Girls' Final 7.30pm, with the winners progressing to the respective State quarter-finals.

Commonwealth Bank Cup Boys Soccer Competition — started with over 300 teams, 32 from the South Coast Region. The Regional Final is to be contested between Smith's Hill High vs Lake Illawarra or Nowra High.

To reach the final Smith's Hill has defeated Warrawong (3-1), Wollongong (2-1), Keira (2-1) and Queanbeyan (1-0).

Lake Illawarra have progressed with wins over Dapto (2-0), Shoalhaven (4-0) and Port Kembla (2-0) while Nowra has beaten Bateman's Bay (2-0) and Eden (4-3 penalties).

Smith's Hill has a goal scoring duo of Chris Necovski (Illawarra U17's) Saso Di-

movski (Wollongong City) which should prove a handful for the keen and competitive Nowra side led by Justyn Roberts, or the as yet unbeaten Lake Illawarra defence led by Tony Raphael (Wanilla Wnd).

Commonwealth Bank Shield Girls' Soccer Competition — commenced with 27 South Coast teams which has been reduced to a final of Shoalhaven High vs Bowral or Woonona High.

Shoalhaven have progressed with wins over Nowra (7-0), Bomaderry, Eden (4-1) and Oak Flats (7-0).

Woonona have also shown how to score goals in their victories over Corrimal, Berkeley and Keira (5-0), while Bowral has emerged from local sides Goulburn (2-1) and Mulwaree (3-2).

Containing four South Coast representatives the Shoalhaven team should prove a hard team to topple, and as last year's regional champions and statewide semi-finalists, they have the experience as well.

The evening should prove to be one of excellent soccer between some of the region's most promising young men and women.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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AROUND THE NATION

Kids in paradise

BY STEVE DARBY

OVER 300 young girls and boys spent a great week of soccer last week being coached by Australian internationals John Kosmina, Gerry Gomez, Anissa Tann and Andrew Bernal plus a wide range of QNSL players from Sydney Olympic.

The camp was arranged by Sydney Olympic Development Officer Gary Phillips in conjunction with South East Districts Soccer Association. This relationship between elite QNSL clubs and a district Association is certainly the way to go for soccer in Australia.

The kids can learn the fundamentals of the game from accredited coaches and at the same time have role models to emulate. In the case of this camp, the four international players are also highly accredited ASF coaches so the kids can get a dual benefit.

It can also serve as a talent spotting exercise for the elite clubs and development officers such as Gary Phillips, can fulfil the dual role of gi-

ving lots of fun to the majority of kids, but at the same time spotting potential young stars for extra training and coaching.

Gary Phillips said "A young lad called Doumanis certainly caught the eye of his coach Andrew Bernal and he'll be looking out for his future and Anissa Tann said the star of her group was a young Kosmina, but he was different to his famous dad ... He had a lot of skill!"

Another benefit of the camp is that if a kid gets to meet a QNSL "hero," then he may well want to see the hero in action. That means that the QNSL club will gain a new spectator and maybe a few parents as well as a bonus.

The newly appointed QNSL Development Officers will be attending a service seminar in August and on the agenda will be the importance of the school holiday clinics.

The appointment of QNSL Development Officer will be a great boost to the game and in future editions of Soccer Weekly I will outline exactly what they will be doing for the soccer community.



JOHN KOSMINA at his peak.

Wheatley says . . .

THE ABC television's 5.30 time slot is currently occupied by a zany mix of a show called "The Big Square Eye", hosted by Bob La Castro, and introduced to a studio audience of around 60 children as an opportunity to participate in sports and activities that you thought were never possible.

Soccer's involvement on the program was for myself, as state development officer, and Anissa Tann, as Australian women's team captain, to demonstrate three basic soccer skills and allow selected members of the audience to complete the skills as

part of a mini-competition.

On a stage area of six metres square, the design of these activities was crucial. Part 1 of the course involved a dribbling circuit around four markers and returning to the start. Contestants then moved onto a passing drill where they were given ten seconds to slot a ball into a mini goal from a distance of six metres.

The final activity, and one that always causes some amusement, was a heading game where players had to place the ball through a target using their head from a distance of two metres. Even Anissa had difficulty attaining six out of six in her demonstration and talking to the contestants after the filming of the

segment we learnt that this was the most challenging of the three skills.

The three rehearsals and final shooting of the program took nearly six hours and soccer part of the show totalled about eight minutes. You certainly do have to be patient when working in television and there were many changes to the original format.

Dynamic host Bob La Castro was a fanatical West Ham supporter and his knowledge of soccer was very helpful in putting the final touches into producing a slick product at the end of the session. For interested viewers the soccer segment will appear on "The Big Square Eye" in the week beginning July 22.

M.D.S.F.A.



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Closes 12th July 1991**



**QUEENSLAND
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The Queensland Soccer Federation calls for applications for the full-time position of State Director of Coaching. The successful applicant will be responsible for the implementation, conduct and evaluation of state wide coaching policies which will be compatible with national strategies. He will be responsible for the professional development of all Regional Coaching Directors and supply advice and guidance to the Queensland Soccer Coaches Association and other affiliated bodies.

The successful applicant will be required to be a highly motivated professional possessing qualifications of a high standard. He should have a proven practical record as a coach and experience in administrative coaching aspects.

For the successful applicant, an attractive remuneration package will be negotiated.

Applications including C.V. details must be directed in writing to R.L. Melville, General Manager, Queensland Soccer Federation, Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Brisbane, Queensland 4006 and marked "Private and Confidential".

Applications will close on Monday 29th July, 1991.

All applications will be treated strictly confidentially.

Historic Yankee victory!

THE United States won its first-ever soccer title when it took out the inaugural CONCACAF Gold Cup, the Central and North American and Caribbean Nations' Championship, with a 4-3 penalty shoot-out victory over Honduras after drawing 0-0 for 120 minutes.

After Fernando Clavijo scored on the eighth American penalty kick, Juan Carlos Espinoza missed for Honduras, winning the United States the tournament.

The Americans continued their remarkable turnaround under coach Bora Milutinovic, the former coach of Mexico and Costa Rica.

The US team is 6-1-1 since he took over in April and has a five-game winning streak, the longest since the Americans began keeping records in 1885.

The United States failed to qualify for the World Cup between 1950 and 1990.

After 90 scoreless minutes and 30 scoreless minutes of extra-time, the team were tied on penalties 2-2.

Brian Quinn then missed for the United States and Luis Calix missed for Honduras.

Dominic Kinnear gave the Americans a 3-2 lead, but Luis Valjejo put away Honduras' seventh kick.

Clavijo then scored the game-winner, beating Wilmer Cruz, who had replaced Belarmino Rivera in goal for the penalty kicks.

Espinoza's shot went over the crossbar.

Rivera made a leaping save in the 17th minute of extra-time, tipping a header by US captain Peter Vermes just over the bar.

In the closing minutes of the first half, US goalkeeper Tony Meola deflected Marco Anariba's curving corner kick just over the bar.

The United States was playing without its top two midfielders,



Zico in action in Italy.

Dr Henry A. Kissinger, honorary chairman of World Cup USA 1994, with the logo representing the XV FIFA World Cup soccer championships which will be held in the United States in 1994.



John Harkes of Sheffield Wednesday in England and Tab Ramos of Figueras in Spain.

Harkes is recovering from a pulled stomach muscle and Ramos got married last week.

The game attracted a crowd of 39,873 to the Los Angeles Coliseum.

GOLD CUP

SCORES AND TABLES

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A — Honduras 4, Canada 2; Mexico 4, Jamaica 1; Honduras 5, Jamaica 0; Mexico 3, Canada 1; Canada 3, Jamaica 2; Mexico 1, Honduras 1.

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Honduras	3	2	0	1	10	3	5
Mexico	3	2	0	1	8	3	5
Canada	3	1	2	0	6	8	2
Jamaica	3	0	3	0	3	12	0

GROUP B — Costa Rica 2, Guatemala 0; US 2, Trinidad and To-

bago 1; Trinidad and Tobago 2, Costa Rica 1; US 3, Guatemala 0; Guatemala 1, Trinidad and Tobago 0; US 3, Costa Rica 2.

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
US	3	3	0	0	3	3	9
Costa Rica	3	1	2	0	5	5	3
Trinidad	3	1	2	0	3	4	2
Guatemala	3	1	2	0	1	5	2

SEMI-FINALS — US 2, Mexico 0; Honduras 2, Costa Rica 0.

WHEN Australia hosted Scotland for the home-and-away qualifier to the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, the Scots could not have been happier with the ASF's choice of venue for the Australian leg — Melbourne.

The Australians could have been sinister and played the match in the hot afternoon sun of muggy Darwin, but they were fine hosts and ensured Scotland did not feel homesick by having them play in the dew-drenched night air of Melbourne.

The Americans, hosts of the 1994 World Cup, are not being so gracious as they seek success at every level of soccer to boost their image as a competitive nation on the world scene.

While the US may be improving its image on the field, it has tarnished its standing off it.

The latest case — last weekend's Olympic qualifier between the US and

FROM OUR MAN
IN NEW YORK
MICHELANGELO
RUCCI

Haiti, a third-round match played at a 2600-seat stadium in the high altitude of the Colorado Rockies.

The Yanks won 8-0 and the Haitians are fuming that the Americans;

• Gave the impression that the competition wasn't serious by playing at the 2600-seat San Creek Soccer Field which has no showers or lockers;

• Created a less than first-class atmosphere by starting the match, on an unfit field, at 6pm;

• Showed a lack of professionalism when Haitian goalkeeper Leves Petit lay on the playing field for 24 minutes with a fractured leg before an emergency vehicle arrived.

Haiti is lodging a protest with FIFA saying the match should be declared null and void because Sand Creek Soccer Field in Colorado Springs did not meet FIFA standards — it is not completely enclosed by a fence.

"The American Federation treats us like animals," said Haitian Federation president Jean-

Claude Nold. "Last month, we treated the USA women very well (in the World Cup qualifiers in Port-Au-Prince)."

Nold said the woes with the Americans began long ago — when the US consulate refused to grant them visas to play in the US until FIFA intervened.

US Olympic coach Lothar Osiander can't understand what all the fuss about playing a match in high altitude — 2000 metres above sea level — is all about.

"That's not our problem," he said. "When we go to Haiti, it will be hot and muggy. That's part of international play. You put up with whatever you're confronted with."

"They're totally un-sportsmanlike people."

And US Soccer Federation Executive Director Hank Steinbecker is washing his hands of the controversy.

"The official on the field is the ultimate judge," he said. "If the facilities must have met the standards."

As for the problem

with goalkeeper Petit, the USSF says there was an ambulance at the field when the match started but it was on call and left.

AMERICAN habits have spilled into the 1994 World Cup already.

FIFA's World Cup organising committee has approved the idea of having players wear their name on the back of their shirts during the 1994 World Cup — a trait of American professional sport.

More frightening the committee has ordered players to wear their number on the front of their jersey as well — another American habit.

FIFA says the new rules on team uniforms are "a gesture of goodwill for the spectators and media reporters."

The committee also has agreed to allow coaches to choose their substitutes from any of the 11 men who start on the bench. In the past, coaches have had to submit a list of five possible subs before the start of a game.

FIFA is still considering the US Soccer Federation's request to have the World Cup final replayed if it is deadlocked after 30 minutes of extra time. Penalty kicks would only be used if the replay also finished as a draw after

extra time.

FIFA's Executive Committee will have the final say on all these issues.

Zico, now coaching Brazil in the Copa America in Chile, will make a comeback to playing in 1993.

Zico, 38, has been signed to a three-year multi-million contract to be the star striker of Sumitomo Metals FC in the first Japanese professional League.

"Since Zico will be 40 years old when the professional league starts, he might not be able to play full time," says Tadao Murata, executive secretary of the Japan Football Association. "But he can give great inspiration."

Blame Roger Milla for all this.

"I saw Roger Milla of Cameroun, who is also 38, play in the World Cup last year. Age doesn't matter," said Zico. "I am going to be able to open a window for Brazilian players and coaches."

The Brazilians like such a window that is playing Zico \$A4.5 million.

The Japanese League will have 10 clubs and plenty of room for the South American imports.

Zico, who played in the 1978, 1982 and 1986 World Cups, retired in 1989.



Sampdoria sign Brazilian

Paul Okon is not the only "libero" to march from the World Youth Championship straight to a European club. Andrei, the Brazilian sweeper, has been signed by Sampdoria for \$5 million.

He will go on loan to another club and return to Sampdoria next season. It's the same deal that Napoli were considering for Okon, but Paul's minders wouldn't even discuss it.

★★★

Stefano Desideri, the Roma midfielder, has been transferred to Inter for over \$7 million. He scored 14 goals in the 1989-90 season but never saw eye to eye with new coach Ottavio Bianchi. He will be a welcome addition to Inter's midfield.

★★★

Diego Latorre, the Argentinian international, has informed Fiorentina that he will not even consider going to Italy unless he is assured of a first team position. Fiorentina have signed Orlando from Juventus and Maiellaro from Bari, and they both play in a similar role to Latorre.

★★★

Italo Alodi is back. He was the general manager behind Inter and Juventus' successes in the 60s and 70s. He also helped build the Napoli

team which won the title twice and the UEFA Cup. Alodi was then struck by a virus and forced to relinquish his position.

Now he is back with Mantova in Fourth Division, the same club where he played in his youth and where he began his career as general manager.

His first two "coups"? Former Juventus player Beniamino Vignola has agreed to resume his career at Mantova, and Real Madrid will play Mantova on the 21st of August to officially open their new stadium.

★★★

Inter Milan have a new reserve goalkeeper. He is Nista, signed from Ancona and formerly with Pisa. Nista refused to go to AC Milan three years ago, because they would not assure him of a first grade spot.

He then had a serious injury before he resumed his career with Ancona in Second Division. Astutello Malgoglio, Inter's reserve goalie for the past few years is going to Ancona. He asked to be transferred, because he wanted to play — anywhere — rather than sit on the bench again.

★★★

Young Fiorentina goalkeeper Mareggini is at the centre of a bitter

fight between Fiorentina and Second Division Lucchese. Officially he is a Fiorentina player but the two clubs had a private agreement which means 50% of Mareggini still belongs to Lucchese.

★★★

They now want two million dollars for a player who, only ten months ago, was an unknown entity. Fiorentina are willing to pay only \$500,000 plus the free loan of Landucci, the goalkeeper which Mareggini displaced in Florence.

★★★

AC Milan have added a foreign player to their books. He is Krassimir Bogdanov, the son of a Bulgarian diplomat who played for sixth division Tor di Quinto last season. Bogdanov cost \$100,000 and he is — theoretically at least — an "Italian" player, because he played his junior soccer in Italy.

★★★

Most Italian pundits consider Torino a good bet for the Italian title next season. Torino signed Brazilian Casagrande — top scorer in Second Division with Ascoli — and Vincenzo Scifo, the son of an Italian immigrant to Belgium. Scifo, a top midfielder, had an unsuccessful stint with Inter Milan three years ago, but



German stars Stefan Reuter and Jurgen Kohler in their new Juventus uniforms.

he is still considered one of the best players in Europe as a playmaker.

Daniele Fontolan could prove to be one of Inter's best purchases this season. In fact, he was signed 12 months ago, but he could not play a single match. In a pre-season match Fontolan suffered a terrible knee injury and has only resumed training a few weeks ago.

★★★

Genoa president Spinelli had to make two hard decisions during the transfer market. First he had to refuse a \$26 million dollar offer for his Czechoslovakian forward, Tomas Skuhravy, from Marseille. Then he had to tell Soviet star Igor Dobrovolski that he was no longer wanted. To make room for Dobrovolski he should have sold Uruguayan forward Aguilera, but the Genoa supporters would have never forgiven him for that.

★★★

Two of the foreign players whose performance will go under the microscope are Juventus' Jurgen Kohler and Stefan Reuter. The two Germans are to strengthen the team's shaky defence and midfield after last year's failure. Another addition to the Juventus defence is Carrara, a former Bari sweeper, who will be probably be played out of position at fullback.

★★★

AS Roma may have lost Stefano Desideri but the squad looks stronger than last season when they won the Italian Cup and made the final of the UEFA Cup. In midfield, Desideri will be replaced by Bonacina, formerly with Atalanta whilst another excellent addition is Thomas Hassler, signed from Juventus. In defence fullback Garzya, formerly with Lecce, could hardly do worse than Comi and Tempestilli.

★★★

Title holder Sampdoria are taking a gamble with their defence. With Luca Pellegrini in disgrace, coach Vuhadin Boskov seems determined to play young Lanna in the sweeper role. There are some doubts over their midfield as well. Will Silas be as good as Cerezo has been in the last few seasons?

★★★

Lazio started their campaign by signing(?) Paul Gascoigne. After his injury — and the Tottenham takeover by Terry Venables — they had to settle for former East German international Thomas Doll. He will have to play in midfield rather than in his preferred role just behind the two strikers.

In defence Verga does not look any better than Solda, and Stroppa is an unknown entity in midfield.

The surprise team of last season, Parma, appear even stronger now.

In defence they have newcomers Nava from Milan and Di Chiara from Fiorentina. Up front Agostini should guarantee at least 10 goals after a disappointing season at AC Milan.

★★★

Florin Raducioiu, the Romanian who played with Bari, has refused to be transferred to Karlsruhe and will probably go to Verona, in order to make room for Frank Farina. Coach Selvemini has made it very clear: "As long as I am the Bari coach, Raducioiu won't play."

★★★

Napoli have signed "libero" Laurent Blanc from Montpellier, striker Padovano from Pisa and defender Fusceddu from Verona. Not enough to replace... Diego Maradona. Gone are defender Rizzardi (to Bari), sweeper Renica (Verona), midfielder Venturin (Torino) and striker Inocciati (Bologna).



Giant French libero Laurent Blanc greeted by Napoli President Corrado Ferlaino.

ITALIAN CUP DRAW

This is the first round draw of the Italian Cup, to be played as home-and-away ties on August 21 and 25.

Most of the First Division clubs will compete in the second round, on August 28 and September 4.

Modena-Piacenza	Brescia-Pescara
Bari-Empoli	Lecce-Casertano
Reggiana-Cosenza	Ancona-Barletta
Lucchese-Venezia	Bologna-Andria
Cesena-Perugia	Padova-Salernitana
Messina-Palermo	Udinese-Triestina
Pisa-Monza	Cagliari-Como
Taranto-Reggina	Avellino-Giustina

All the Copa America action



The Copa America, currently under way in Chile, has produced very few surprises and the confirmation that Brazil, Argentina and Colombia are three of the favourites to win the South American nations' championship.

Uruguay, without its overseas based stars has been a disappointment while Venezuela has shown some improvement although it won't be in the final round robin.

Only 27 of the 220 players registered for the competition are based overseas and not in their countries of origin, showing clearly the intentions of the coaches to give a deserved opportunity to local talent, many times ignored in the past.

DAY ONE

Chile, seeking to clean up its international reputation after being banned from the next World Cup, had a player sent off in their opening South American soccer championship match.

Midfielder Ruben Espinoza was dismissed in the 43rd minute for arguing with the Colombian referee Armando Perez, but Chile still beat Venezuela 2-0 in front of 50,000 spectators at Santiago's National Stadium. The Chileans didn't impress the local fans against an enthusiastic Venezuelan outfit guided by Uruguayan coach Victor Pignatelli.

Defender Eduardo Vilches opened the score for the host nation after 22 minutes and striker Ivan Zamorano, with a header, added the second in the 34th.

Paraguay beat Peru 1-0 in the first round of the Copa America, but had to fight hard to defeat a very determined Peruvian outfit. The match was very even along the 90 minutes of play and the only goal was scored by Paraguayan sensation, attacking midfielder Luis Monzon, in the 22nd minute with a

short drive after a bad clearance from the Peruvian defence.

DAY TWO

In Valparaiso, Uruguay, using young players with an eye to the 1994 World Cup, struggled to draw 1-1 with Bolivia in the opening match for both squads in Group B.

Playing with only one holdover from last year's World Cup in Italy, Penarol's goalkeeper Fernando Alvez, Uruguay's experimental squad had trouble finishing their attacks against a surprisingly fast Bolivia.

The Bolivians took an early lead from a centre by Benfca's Erwin "Platini" Sanchez, which Rimba lifted in the area for Suarez to head into the net in the 16th minute.

Midfielder Ramon Castro converted for Uruguay in the 74th from a header by Gutierrez that was controlled by replacement Edgar Borges and tapped on for Castro to slam home.

Uruguayan coach Luis Cubilla decided not to call up star strikers playing in Italy, Lazio's Ruben Sosa, Genoa's Carlos Aguilera and Cagliari's Daniel Fonseca and Enzo Francescoli.

Also in Valparaiso, Colombia, one of the favourites to win the tournament, defeated Ecuador 1-0.

The Colombians dominated the mid-field throughout the match thanks to the brilliance of Carlos Valderrama and Alexis Garcia.

The only goal of the match came in the 25th minute when Ecuadorian goalkeeper Erwin Ramirez couldn't stop the ball, after a cross from Colombian striker Carlos Estrada, and Anthony De Avila opened the account with a short drive.

DAY THREE

Ivan Zamorano scored two goals in a rainstorm in Concepcion, to lead Chile to a 4-2 win over arch-rival Peru in Group A.

A goal by Hugo Rubio in the 15th minute gave Chile a 1-0 halftime lead.

Jorge Contreras scored Chile's second goal on a penalty kick after 52 minutes, and Flavio Maestre netted Peru's first eight minutes later.

Ivan Zamorano, one of the Chilean overseas based players, added one for Chile with a header in the 62nd. Peruvian midfielder Jose del Solar scored Peru's second goal in the 71st.



Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia — scoring freely in the Copa America.

Only three minutes later, Zamorano, again with a header, made it 4-2 for Chile.

Zamorano plays for the Spanish club, Sevilla, and is one of the tournament's top scorers.

World Cup runner up Argentina beat Venezuela 3-0 in Group A.

Brilliant World Cup striker Claudio Caniggia, joined by Argentine league highest scorer Gabriel Batistuta, penetrated Venezuela's defence time and again in the one-sided encounter.

Argentina opened the account in the 29th minute when Batistuta sped behind Venezuelan defenders and hammered home a high cross.

Caniggia, who plays for Italian club Atalanta, entered the goal area alone in the 43rd minute to head a cross from midfielder Fabian Basualdo that gave Argentina a 2-0 halftime lead.

A hand ball by Venezuelan midfielder Roberto Cavallo gave Argentina a penalty that was converted by Batistuta in the 51st to complete the scoring.

In addition to

Caniggia, Argentine coach Alfio Basile fielded three other World Cup veterans in goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, central defender Oscar Ruggeri, who replaced disgraced superstar Diego Maradona as the squad's captain, and midfielder Fabian Basualdo.

Pisa's Diego Simeone and Boca Juniors star Diego Latorre were instrumental for Argentina in midfield.

DAY FOUR

Uruguay, missing its best forwards, drew 1-1 against Ecuador.

Ecuadorian captain, midfielder Alex Aguinaga converted in the 44th minute off a pass from the midfield line by defender Jimmy Montanero for the only goal of the first half.

Ecuador narrowly missed a chance for another first half goal when a header by Byron Tenorio hit the crossbar after Uruguayan midfielder Ramon Mendez converted a penalty in the 49th to secure the draw.

Defending champions Brazil, still searching for an effective attack, defeated Bo-

livia 2-1 in a game in Group "B".

In his first official tournament, Brazilian coach Paulo Roberto Falcao dropped all his World Cup squad players except three-goalkeeper Taffarel, defender Mazinho, and midfielder Branco.

Brazilian captain Neto scored in the 5th minute from a penalty after forward Joao Paulo was brought down in the Bolivian goal area.

Bolivia held their own for much of the first half and came close to equalising, but a solid Brazilian central defence line of Gattardo and Ricardo Rocha performed flawlessly.

Branco slammed in a 30-metre free kick in the opening minutes of the second half to give Brazil a 2-0 lead.

Falcao brought on strikers Rai and Mazinho II to substitute Careca and injured Joao Paulo, and the changes injected missing power into Brazil's midfield and offensive play.

Bolivia scored from a penalty in the closing stages of the match after Gattardo tripped

up Marco Antonio in the goal area and Sanchez converted.

DAY FIVE

Gabriel Batistuta scored with nine minutes left to lead Argentina to a 1-0 victory over host nation Chile.

Traditional rivals Chile and Argentina played to a 0-0 draw in the first half, before Batistuta dribbled past Chilean defenders Lizardo Garrido and Javier Margas to score.

The Argentines under the guidance of coach Alfio Basile showed more determination and the will to win, although the local outfit controlled the midfield for most of the match.

The Chileans must improve their attack in the remaining matches if they want to qualify for the final round-robin.

In the other game in Group "A", Paraguay defeated the young and inexperienced Venezuelan team 5-0 and improved its chances of qualifying for the finals.

The strong Paraguayan squad led Venezuela 2-0 at half time, with goals from Gustavo Neffa, who plays for Italian club Cremonese, and Carlos Guiriland.

Luis Monzon scored with 20 minutes left and Vidal Sanabria added a goal six minutes later. Monzon, again, scored through a penalty kick, four minutes before the end of the match.

DAY 6

The Brazilian media lambasted their team after they drew 1-1 with Uruguay.

Newspaper reports said coach Paulo Roberto Falcao could face the sack at the end of the competition and that Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) directors were demanding immediate changes in the team's selection and tactics.

The team's showing was called "almost grotesque" by the "Jornal do Brasil" and "a festival of errors" by the "Jornal dos Sports".

The Rio daily "O Dia" commented that Brazil played "without any tactical scheme and demonstrated an incredible vocation to misplace passes".

A television commentator said at one stage during the second half: "This must be the

worst 10 minutes in the history of the Brazilian national team."

The 19,000 spectators at the group B match in Vina del Mar were rewarded with an early Brazil goal.

But that was about the only highlight as far as the Brazilians were concerned.

A low cross from right-wing Cafu sent Joao Paulo clear into the area to put Brazil ahead in the 28th minute.

The goal forced the Uruguayans, playing with four full-backs and three sweepers, to abandon their defensive strategy but Brazil failed to press their advantage.

In the 67th minute, a mistake by defender Gattardo allowed Peter Mendez to beat goalkeeper Taffarel for the equaliser.

In the other match on the same day, Bolivia drew 0-0 with Colombia in a game the Colombians dominated.

DAY 7

Led by World Cup star Claudio Caniggia, Argentina routed Paraguay 4-1 to extend its winning streak to three games and advance to the second round.

Gabriel Batistuta led off scoring for Argentina with a goal 39 minutes into the game to make it 1-0 at the half.

Diego Simeone, Leonardo Astrada and Caniggia added three goals for Argentina in the second half, while Jose Cardozo scored Paraguay's lone goal.

In Santiago, Eugenio La Rosa scored twice as Peru trounced Venezuela 5-1 to keep alive its slim chances of reaching the final round.

Peru led 2-1 at half-time.

La Rosa scored nine minutes into the contest, but Venezuela tied it with its first goal of the tournament, scored by Miguel Echenaussi at the 14th minute.

A goal by Cesar Rodriguez seven minutes later gave Peru the lead for good.

La Rosa scored again 10 minutes into the second half. Jose del Solar added a goal three minutes later, and Jorge Hiranio's goal in the 62nd minute completed the scoring.

PHASE TWO IN NEXT
WEEK'S ISSUE

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER



◆ Oscar Dertycia the Argentine striker who visited Australia in 1988 for the Bicentennial Gold Cup, has signed a three-year contract worth \$1 million with Tenerife after playing for Cadiz, on loan from Fiorentina, last season.

◆ The African Football Confederation have banned Zambia from all youth competitions for two years for fielding an over-age player in the qualifiers for Portugal '91.

◆ Ajax have signed Utrecht midfielder Rob Affien to a three-year contract. They are grooming him to eventually replace Jan Wouters, who will be 31 by the time the new season gets under way.

◆ A second Egyptian international will play for Xamax Neuchatel in the Swiss First Division next season. Hossam Hassan, who played for PAOK Salonika last season, is likely to join countryman Hany Ramzy in the team coached by Englishman Roy Hodgson, who toured Australia in 1989 as coach of Malmo of Sweden.

◆ The very last German Player of the Year was Sportklub Halle's Dariusz Woz. There will be no more East German competition next season when the two Germanies will compete in the same leagues.

◆ Mexico and Bulgaria will meet in a home-and-away series in Sofia on August 20 and in Mexico City on December 18.

◆ Nicolai Todorov has been voted Player of the Year in Bulgaria by the local weekly "Football". Todorov will play for Montpellier in France this coming season.

◆ The draw for the finals of Euro-92 will be made on January 17, 1992 at Goteborg's Convention Centre.

◆ Jon Andoni Goicoechea, the big revelation of the last Spanish season, has had his contract quinstopped by Barcelona officials. As of next season, he will earn \$1.3 million a year.

◆ Charjah have won the United Arab Emirates Cup for the second straight year.

◆ Anibal Ruiz is the new coach of beaten Copa Libertadores finalists Olimpia Asuncion. The Uruguayan replaces countryman Luis Cabilla, now in charge of Uruguay's national team, at the helm of the crack Paraguayan outfit.

◆ Former Yugoslav national coach Todor Veselinovic has signed a two-year contract with Istanbul club Bakirkoy. He should have no problem adapting as he has coached in Turkey twice.

◆ Venlo have won the promotion play-offs and will play in the Dutch First Division next season.

◆ Yugoslav national team coach Ivica Osim is tipped to take charge of Partizan Belgrade next season in a bid to reclaim some of the glory which was all but bitter rivals, Red Star's this past season.

◆ Czechoslovakian international Ladislav Novak has signed a two-year contract to coach Belgian First Division Molenbeek. He has coached Dukla Prague, Lokeren and Beerschot.

◆ Mircea Lucescu won't be coaching Standard Liege after all. The Romanian is tipped to coach Italian Second Division side Brescia next season instead.

◆ Dutch international Danny Blind knocked back an offer to join Paris St Germain. He signed a new contract tying him to Ajax for the three years.

◆ Greek side Aris Salonika will be coached by a Bulgarian next season. Former national team boss Voutzov has signed for two years. He is not coming alone. In his luggage are three Bulgarian internationals — midfielder Chalamanov and strikers Ignatov and Anguelov.

◆ Red Star Belgrade's Darko Pancev is the Golden Boot winner for 1990/91. The Yugoslav international striker scored 34 goals to become the top scorer in all European leagues. Tanjo Colak, a previous winner from Turkey, was second.

◆ Universitatea Craiova ended the decades — long domination of Romanian domestic football by the two Bucharest clubs, Steaua and Dinamo, by winning the 1990/91 championship — but only just, with a slight better goal-difference than Steaua.

◆ Atletico Madrid have sacked their Yugoslav coach Tomislav Ivic. The team, coached by Santos Ovejero in the interim, performed splendidly to win the Spanish Cup. But it will be Luis Aragonés, a former Atletico great, who will be in charge next season. Ivic is off to Marseille.

◆ Ferencváros beat Vac Izzo 1-0 with a 26th minute goal by Nacer to take out the Hungarian Cup final.

◆ Newly promoted French First Division side Le Havre have signed the prolific goal scorer of the Czechoslovakian national team, Václav Daneš, who played in Austria for FC Tirol. Daneš was third, behind Tanjo Colak and Darko Pancev, on the European goal scoring list last season.



Brazil's Youth World captain Djair (right) and Hernandez of Mexico in action in Portugal. Djair impressed experts who are predicting a big future for the "new Ricardo".

YORATH HAS WALES THIN KING EURO-92

ONE of the first tasks set by Terry Yorath, now full-time manager of Wales, is to reorganise schools football in the principality.

He obviously recognises the importance of catching 'em young.

But his main immediate target, he says, is to get Wales into the finals of the 1992 European Championships.

They have an excellent chance after beating Germany, the world champions, 1-0 in a qualifying match last month.

Yorath was then a part-time manager on \$40,000 a year, which will soon be zooming towards \$100,000.

Dean Saunders, the Welsh forward, said: "Terry has changed so much for us. We play on good pitches now, wear good kit, stay in good hotels and even



DEAN SAUNDERS

get good bonuses. "He deserves it, and our team spirit, which is high at the moment, will only get better for it."

Prosinecki to stay put



Robert Prosinecki

ROBERT Prosinecki, the mercurial Red Star Belgrade midfielder, star, will not be allowed to join Real Madrid next season after all.

Prosinecki, the blond 22-year-old who guided Red Star to the European Cup last season, has signed a contract with the Spanish club and only last month he was presented to the world as a Real player in a flash of publicity in Madrid.

But the Yugoslav Football Federation said that they had rejected a Spanish Football Association request to approve Prosinecki's transfer.

Yugoslav internationals are not allowed to go abroad until they reach the age of 25, and the Federation said Prosinecki will not be able to join Real until July 1994.

Prosinecki's contract with Red Star expires at the end of this month, and the Yugoslav Federation said he had no right to sign a contract with another club before then.

FIRST ROUND EURO DRAWS

REIGNING European champions Red Star Belgrade have drawn Portadown of Northern Ireland in Round One this season as UEFA held the draw for the three 1991-92 European Cups in Geneva last Thursday.

Cup Winners' Cup champion Manchester United, which gave England a European title in its first year back in the competitions after a five-year ban, drew Athinaikos of Athens for the opening round.

The full draw:

Champions' Cup

US Luxembourg (Luxembourg) vs Marseille (France) — seeded, Brondby (Denmark) — seeded vs Lubin (Poland), Kispest Budapest (Hungary) — seeded vs Dundalk (Ireland), Sparta Prague (Czechoslovakia) vs Rangers FC (Scotland) — seeded, Barcelona FC (Spain) — seeded vs Hansa Rostock (Germany), Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) — seeded vs Portadown (Northern Ireland), Univ. Craiova (Romania) — seeded vs Apollon Limassol (Cyprus), IFK Gothenburg (Sweden) — seeded vs Flamurtari Vlora (Albania), Sampdoria (Italy) — seeded vs Rosenborg (Norway), Hamrun Spartans (Malta) vs Benfica (Portugal) — seeded, Arsenal (England) vs Austria Vienna (Austria) — seeded, Dinamo Kiev (Soviet Union) — seeded vs HJK Helsinki (Finland), Besiktas (Turkey) vs PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) — seeded, Fram Reykjavik (Iceland) vs Panathinaikos (Greece) — seeded, Anderlecht (Belgium) — seeded vs Grasshopper Zurich (Switzerland), Kaiserslautern (Germany) — seeded vs FC Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria).

Cup Winners' Cup (preliminary round)

Odense (Denmark) vs Galway United (Ireland), Sparkasse Stockerau (Austria) vs Tottenham Hotspur (England).

Cup Winners' Cup (first round)

Omonia Nicosia (Cyprus) vs Club Brugge (Belgium) — seeded, Hajduk Split (Yugoslavia) — seeded vs Sparkasse Stockerau or Tottenham Hotspur, Norrköping (Sweden) — seeded vs Jeunesse Esch (Luxembourg), Glenavon (Northern Ireland) vs Ilves (Finland) — seeded, Katowice (Poland) — seeded vs Motherwell (Scotland), Odense or Galway United vs Banik Ostrava (Czechoslovakia) — seeded, Swansea City (Wales) vs Monaco (France) — seeded, Slon (Switzerland) — seeded vs Valur (Iceland), Levski Sofia (Bulgaria) vs Ferencváros (Hungary) — seeded, PAE Athinaikos (Greece) vs Manchester United (England) — seeded, Galatasaray (Turkey) — seeded vs Eisenhuettenstaedter FC (Germany), FC Bacau (Romania) vs Werder Bremen (Germany) — seeded, Valletta FC (Malta) vs Porto (Portugal) — seeded, Fyllingen Idrettslag (Norway) vs Atletico Madrid (Spain) — seeded, Partizan Tirana (Albania) vs Feyenoord Rotterdam (Netherlands) — seeded, CSKA Moscow (Soviet Union) vs AS Roma (Italy) — seeded.

UEFA Cup

Cork City (Ireland) vs Bayern Munich (Germany) — seeded, Dinamo Moscow (Soviet Union) — seeded vs Vac Izzo (Hungary), Aberdeen FC (Scotland) vs BK 1903 Copenhagen (Denmark), Gent (Belgium) vs Lausanne (Switzerland), Bratislava (Czechoslovakia) vs Real Madrid (Spain) — seeded, Eintracht Frankfurt (Germany) — seeded vs Spora Luxembourg (Luxembourg), Sturm Graz (Austria) vs Utrecht (Netherlands), Comercio e Salgueiros (Portugal) vs Cannes (France), Reykjavik FC (Iceland) vs Torin (Italy) — seeded, VfB Stuttgart (Germany) — seeded vs Peci Munkas (Hungary), Celtic FC (Scotland) vs Ekeren (Belgium), Lyon (France) vs Östers (Sweden), Auxerre (France) — seeded vs Ikast (Denmark), Hallescher FC (Germany) vs Torpedo Moscow (Soviet Union) — seeded, Bangor (Northern Ireland) vs Olomouc Sigma (Czechoslovakia), Liverpool (England) vs Kuusysi Lahti (Finland), Hamburg (Germany) — seeded vs Gornik Zabrze (Poland), Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) — seeded vs Örebro (Sweden), Spartak Moscow (Soviet Union) vs Mikkelin Palloilijat (Finland), Svarovski Tirol (Austria) vs Tromsø (Norway), PAOK Salonika (Greece) vs Mechelen (Belgium) — seeded, Fagugusta (Cyprus) vs Steaua Bucharest (Romania) — seeded, CSKA Sofia (Bulgaria) vs Parma (Italy), Sporting Gijon (Spain) vs Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia), Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) — seeded vs Dinamo Bucharest (Romania), Groningen (Netherlands) — seeded vs Rot-Weiss Erfurt (Germany), Vlasziana Shkoder (Albania) vs AEK Athens (Greece), Real Oviedo (Spain) vs Genoa (Italy), Boavista (Portugal) vs Inter Milan (Italy) — seeded, Nanchatel Xamax (Switzerland) vs Floriana FC (Malta), Slavia Sofia (Bulgaria) vs Atletico Osasuna (Spain), Hask-Gradjanski (Yugoslavia) vs Trabzonspor (Turkey) — seeded.

All matches on September 18 and October 2.



The new sensation of the Italian national team, Torino-based Gianluca Lentini, in action during the recent Scania Cup in Sweden.

DUTCH CLUB BANNED

EUROPEAN soccer's governing body, UEFA, has banned Dutch club Den Bosch from its competitions for three years for going to court to secure a replay of the Dutch Cup final.

UEFA rules say clubs may not take before a court disputes with UEFA or matters that concern UEFA.

UEFA intervened because the winners of the final go into one of their competitions — next season's European Cup Winners' Cup.

Den Bosch obtained a court order to replay the second half of the June 2 match, which ended seven minutes from time when fans of their opponents, Feyenoord, invaded the pitch.

Feyenoord were leading by a single first-half goal.

The Dutch Football Association has already named Feyenoord as its participant in next season's European Cup Winners' Cup.

☆☆☆☆

VALLADOLID'S VALDERRAMA

COLOMBIAN international Carlos Valderrama is leaving French First Division club Montpellier for a two-year stint with Spain's Real Valladolid.

No figures for the 28-year-old's transfer were released in joint announcements in Spain and France — but the fee was estimated at around \$500,000.

Valderrama, who arrived in Montpellier in 1988, will be joining the former coach of Colombia's international squad, Francisco Ma-

turana, currently coach at the Spanish First Division side.

Maturana, who only renewed his contract after getting guarantees that he could sign new talent, said "there is absolutely no question of starting a Colombian 'cartel' at Valladolid, it's just a matter of improving the side".



Colombian star Carlos Valderrama

APSL head for the big-time

THE American Professional Soccer League have at last decided to take the plunge and live up to the name.

They have applied for admission to the United States Soccer Federation's Professional Division.

Up to now, APSL had been existing as two regional leagues affiliated to the senior division, which meant that they have been paying only some \$12,000 a year in regional affiliation fees.

Registration as a pro league will mean higher fees, paid to the national office.

The old North American Soccer League paid \$60,000 a year for each club, the fees for the APSL, to be negotiated, will be substantially lower.

A benefit of registration for the APSL — and for the sport in general — will be in-

creased voting strength within the USSF, where pro votes since 1985 have been monopolised by the indoor league.

One of the APSL's next tasks is to become a competitive league serving as a training ground for national team players.

At the moment that is clearly not so, with many of the top US players preferring to seek clubs in Europe.

But there remains a nucleus of national players within the APSL clubs — including captain Peter Vermes (Tampa Bay), Tony Meola (Fort Lauderdale), Bruce Murray (Maryland Bays), Troy Dayak, Marcelo Balboa and Eric Wynalda (San Francisco).

Euro-96 set for Holland

HOLLAND seem likely to stage the European Championship of 1996.

There are two possibilities: either Belgium and Holland will make a joint bid, or the Dutch will go it alone and the second seems a certainty.

The Dutch Prime Minister, Ruud Lubbers, has met representatives of the Dutch and Belgian football boards, and expressed his interest in bringing the tournament to the Low Countries. Lubbers — a hockey player — is regarded as sure to succeed Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission, so his support would be a great boost for the bid.

Holland and Belgium have suggested that the number of nations in the tournament be increased from eight to 12 which would allow automatic qualification for both host countries if the plan were to succeed. UEFA's organising committee will meet on July 28 to discuss the proposed new format.



RUUD LUBBERS

The Dutch, however, are now thinking of leaving out Belgium and bidding to host the tournament alone for two reasons.

Firstly, Ajax Amsterdam and Vitesse Arnhem are about to build new stadia, and both should be ready by 1994.

Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven already have excellent grounds,

so Holland should have four suitable international venues soon, enough to stage an eight-team European Championship and all within a two-hour journey of the others.

Secondly, UEFA have said they will not allow Belgium to stage any tournament until the decision made by a Belgian court after the Heysel catastrophe in 1985 is overturned.

The judge in Brussels held UEFA and former secretary-general Hans Bangerter responsible for the death of 39 fans.

A lone Dutch bid, if supported by Lubbers would stand a good chance.

Holland have never hosted a tournament, and their footballing history has earned them the opportunity.

Unlike Italy before the 1990 World Cup, the country already has a good communications system, and sufficient accommodation for tourists.

BOOM TIME FOR SCANDINAVIANS

Scandinavian football is enjoying a boom period.

On the international scene, Norway recently created a huge upset by beating Italy in a Euro-92 qualifier, and Finland also shocked by holding Holland to a draw in another Euro-92 qualifier.

Denmark, you will recall, beat Yugoslavia at home, and Sweden recently thrashed Austria 6-0 in a friendly, not to mention the Euro-92 exploits by the tiny Faroe Islands.

On a personal level, players from Scandinavia have all contributed to their clubs' successes all over Europe this past season.

Judge for yourselves:

• In Portugal, the Swedish trio of Jonas Thern, Mats Magnusson and Stefan Schwartz — under a Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson — helped Benfica to win yet another championship;

• In Spain, Dane Michael Laudrup was instrumental in Barcelona dominating the championship to win the title in a canter to the consternation of

Real Madrid.

• In England, Scandinavians did extremely well, with Swede Anders Limpar winning the league with Arsenal, countryman Roland Nilsson the League Cup with Sheffield Wednesday and Norwegian goalkeeper Enk Thorsvedt the FA Cup with Tottenham;

• In Germany, Danish striker Bjarne Goldbaed won the Bundesliga crown with Kaiserslautern ahead of Bayern Munich for whom countryman Michael Laudrup shone brightly;

• In Holland, PSV Eindhoven, with Dane Jan Heintze won the title from Swedish striker Stefan Pettersson's Ajax;

• In Belgium, a Finn, Kari Ukonen, was a key player in the Anderlecht side that regained the title;

• In Switzerland, Swede Mats Gren inspired Grasshoppers Zurich to a championship win in a storming finish after trailing Sion for most of the season.

The 1990-91 European season was indeed placed under the sign of Scandinavia!

ON SALE CITY: TUESDAY COUNTRY: WEDNESDAY

SOCCER

MACCABI DOUBLE



Maccabi Haifa have clinched the double in Israel.

But they had to wait for the final whistle of their last league match against Nathanya to be sure of capturing their fourth championship title, as well as the cup.

Had challengers Hapoel Petah Tikvah won their final match instead of only drawing with Maccabi Tel Aviv, Hapoel would have piped Haifa on the post.

Hapoel Jerusalem finished third in the league while Bnei Yehuda and Hapoel Kfar Sabab have been relegated.

Maccabi Haifa, not surprisingly, also provided Israel's Player of the Year.

The award was won by the Tal Benin.

POLAND'S INCREASE



The Polish First Division has been enlarged to include 18 clubs next season.

The Second Division has been split into two groups.

In a complete shake-up of Polish football, the Federation also voted itself a new president — Kazimierz Gorski, the coach who led Poland to its greatest international results in the 1970s.

BRONDBY CROWNED

BRONDBY, who reached the UEFA Cup semifinal last season, won the new Danish super-league after a 1-1 draw with second-placed Lyngby.

The superleague of 10 top clubs was created to raise the standard of Danish club football and give players more time to prepare for national matches and European club competition.

Pay-TV a boost for German footballers

AN extraordinary contract offer of \$290 million from a leading satellite channel and pay-as-you-view television should provide a massive injection of cash for the German clubs, and dissuade their top stars from moving abroad.

Such a prospect would particularly delight the national team manager, Bertie Vogts, who fears that the continual exit will soon lead to all his internationals playing in foreign lands.

March pay-as-you-view TV was launched in Germany by a company called Premiere, working in conjunction with the French channel Canal Plus, which has successfully introduced this

They have offered the DFB (German FA) \$200 million for exclusive rights of transmission, over five years.

That means \$70 million a year, exactly three times as much as, for example in Britain, ITV are paying the Football League for 18 live championship and three League Cup games a season.

At present a film and television consortium, UFA, are paying the DFB \$40 million a year on behalf of the two German state channels ARD and ZDF and the private station RTL Plus. The new offer from SAT 1 would bring every First Division club \$2.2 million a season.

Second Division clubs would get about half that amount.

Germany's club managers are keen to accept the bid, while Vogts, whose main concern is that seven of the World Cup squad are playing in Italy, while three others are negotiating with Italian clubs, expressed deep satisfaction.

"This is marvellous news for German football," he said.

"The money from television could be used by the clubs to pay their stars more, to keep them in the country. It is my dream for 1992, next to qualifying for the European Championship finals, that no international player goes abroad."

Shrewdest

"Of course, some of our Italian exiles have improved their game there and matured into real personalities. But the basis for a successful national team must be laid in the Bundesliga."

There are also warning voices. UFA, who hold exclusive TV rights till 1991, are doubtful whether SAT 1 have the money they promise.

They have tabled a renewal offer to the DFB.

"The governing body will not be able to overlook the state channels ARD and ZDF, because they guarantee a comprehensive country-wide coverage, with audiences running into millions," claim UFA.

And Hoeness, the former international and now the shrewdest brain among the club managers, complains that the \$70 a year is not enough.

"This is a catastrophe, if such a deal is intended for five years," he says.

"We think that twice as much ought to be demanded and I am certain we could get it out of television operators."

The Germans can enjoy their sport on seven channels.

But unlike in Britain, for instance, they never broadcast the same event live at the same time.

The competition is fierce but healthy, and of course commercial interests must be considered, but never to the detriment of the consumer.



ULI HOENESS

Those responsible are mindful of the fact that football remains the star attraction on the box and they would never attempt anything that might spoil the relationship with the paying customer.



Ace Sampdoria striker Roberto Mancini. The Italian league again produced precious few goals last season.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GOALS?

The 1990/91 French First Division, championship produced the least goals of the 33 countries in Europe that conduct leagues.

French players managed only a measly average of 2.12 goals per game.

Not surprisingly, the weaker the league as a rule, the higher the average number of goals scored.

Of the major European countries, the German Bundesliga again proved the most prolific, with an average of 2.90 goals a match.

The highly paid strikers of Portugal, Italy and Spain only performed marginally better than the Frenchmen.

The list:

● Northern Ireland 3.10
● Norway 3.03

● Luxembourg 2.97
● San Marino 2.95
● Faroe Islands 2.90
● Germany 2.90
● Iceland 2.82
● Turkey 2.80
● Austria 2.77
● Romania 2.76
● Cyprus 2.75
● England 2.75
● Czechoslovakia 2.73
● Holland 2.71
● Bulgaria 2.70
● Belgium 2.66
● Yugoslavia 2.57
● Sweden 2.52
● Greece 2.52
● Switzerland 2.52
● Denmark 2.49
● Scotland 2.47
● Poland 2.41
● Finland 2.40
● Malta 2.39
● Albania 2.38
● USSR 2.33
● Ireland 2.32
● Portugal 2.30
● Italy 2.29
● Hungary 2.25
● Spain 2.17
● France 2.12

— LOU GAUTIER

Saudis turn to Brazil — again

BRAZILIAN Claudio Garcia is the new coach of the Saudi Arabian national team.

Garcia, 47, who was in charge of the United Arab Emirates for three years, signed a two-year contract with the Saudis.

His first priority will be the Olympic Games qualifying competition.

Garcia is the Saudis' fourth Brazilian coach since 1982.

Carlos Alberto Par-



reira had the most success with Saudi Arabia, who won two Asian Championships under his guidance.



PSV's Brazilian ace Romario (right) in action in the 1990-91 championship clincher against Volendam. Romario, with 25 goals, topped the Dutch scoring charts but was left out of Brazil's current Copa America squad.

REGIONAL NEWS

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EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

\$2.8 million for Dorigo!



LEEDS United has been ordered by the English Football League transfer tribunal to pay Chelsea \$2.8 million for Australian-born ace Tony Dorigo.

Leeds originally offered \$2.14 million for England fullback Dorigo, but Chelsea wanted twice that amount for the former Aston Villa player.

The fee means that Chelsea have recouped almost all of the \$A3 million they spent on Celtic defender Paul Elliott.

Chelsea managing director Colin Hutchinson said after the decision: "We have to accept what the tribunal decides."

Dorigo, born in Melbourne, is recovering from a double hernia injury picked up in England's summer tour of Australasia and Malaysia.

"I'm just glad that it is all sorted out, and I'm looking forward to getting fit for next season," Dorigo said today.

"The main thing is to play well and start enjoying it. Leeds are an ambitious club and they have bought some good players.

"I think they have got a stronger squad than last year and they did well then."

The four-man transfer tribunal was meeting at Arsenal's Highbury headquarters.

Fine Aussie start

SHEFFIELD STUDENT GAMES

A last minute goal earned Australia a 2-2 draw in Group C of the World Student Games soccer tournament in England.

Paul Trimboli had given the Australians the lead after 15 minutes at Lincoln City's Sincil Bank ground.

But a sudden two-goal burst in the 69th and the 72nd put the Dutch ahead before Kimon Tailadores struck back.

Other Round 1 results:

POOL A: Germany 1 Mexico 1.

POOL B: Great Britain 2 Iran 1, USA 2 Ireland 1.

POOL C: Netherlands 2 Australia 2.

POOL D: Romania 0 Uruguay 1.

The World Student Games, or Universiade, are the biggest all-sports event after the Olympics, but it's the first time Australia has entered a soccer team in what is a good class tournament.



KIM TALIADEOROS

Pompey slide costs plenty

PORTSMOUTH lost £800,000 last season following their disastrous slide to the brink of relegation to the Third Division.

And now chairman Jim Gregory, who has already poured £1 million of his own money into the club, must inject another £1.2m to cover the debt.

LAWRIE MADDEN, given a free transfer by Sheffield Wednesday, was on the shortlist for the Middlesbrough manager's job finally taken by Leon Lawrence.

NORWICH's hopes of signing Simon Milton from Ipswich were dashed when the midfield ace signed a new two-year con-

tract. VETERAN keeper John Burridge, 39, freed by Newcastle, is likely to make Hibs his 11th club. BOURNEMOUTH have asked the Football League to have a fixtures re-think after it was discovered they shared 14 home dates with neighbours Southampton.

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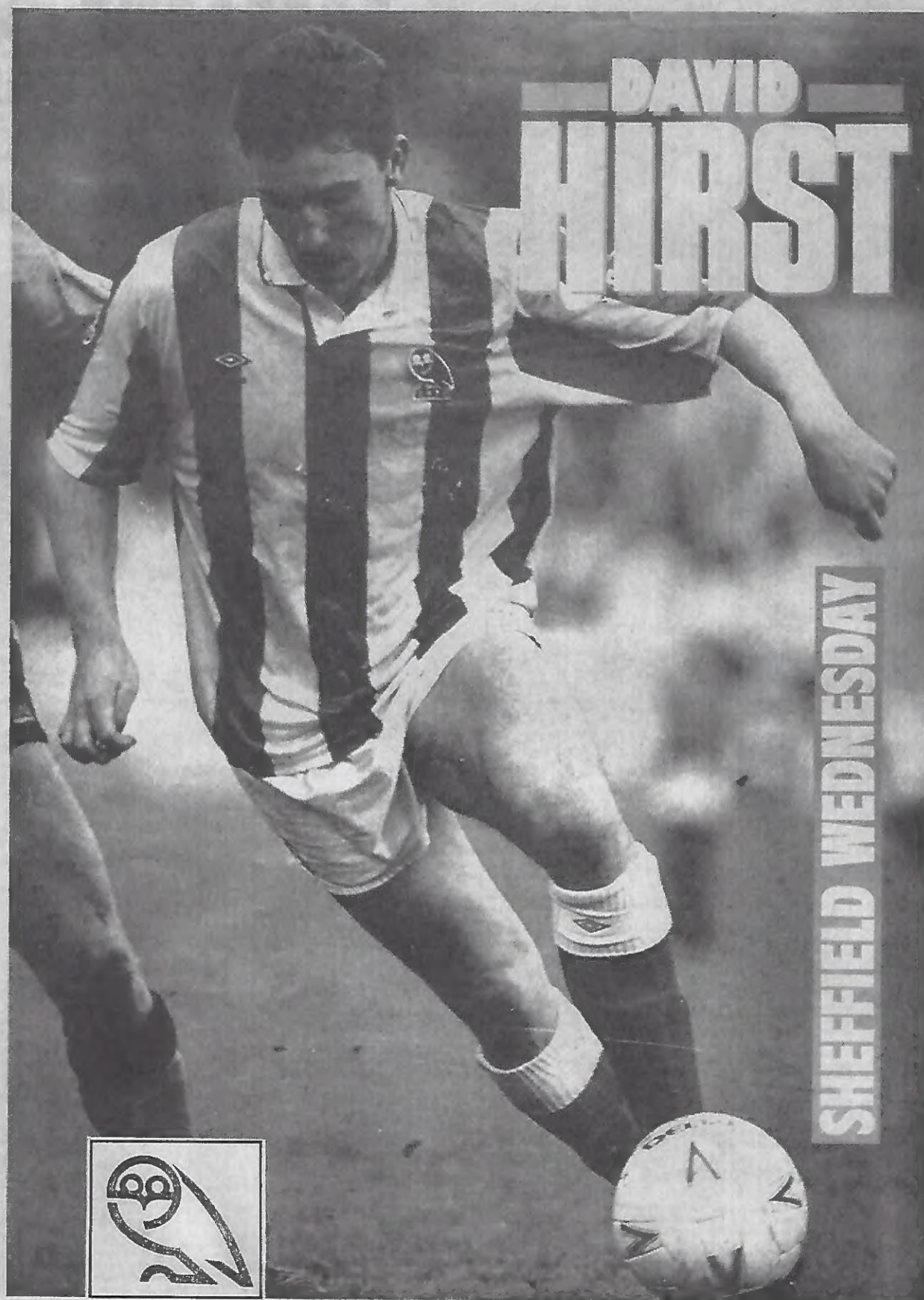


KICK OFF THE SEASON 91/92

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Guinness Soccer Who's Who 5th Ed. 1992	\$19.95
Supporters Guide to Football League Clubs 1992	\$16.00

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★★★ **STAR OF THE WEEK** ★★★





I SIGNED



JUSTIN FASHANU: a big mistake.

CHRIS CATTLIN has made money out of rock — but his finest uncut gem is still **Dean Saunders**.

The Brighton rock shop man who paid £19 for the Welsh whippet reckons he's still a sweet snip at around £3 million.

Cattlin says: "If Graeme Souness, Howard Kendall or anybody else gets him at that price he'll be a great buy."

"That fee might seem big now, but in a few years it won't. He's that good a player."

There's no-one better qualified to make that judgment, Cattlin is the shrewd who, six years ago, pulled Dean off the Swansea scrap-heap at £21, saved his career, and left himself convinced he was the original one-eyed man in the kingdom of the blind.

Cattlin was in his second of three years as Brighton boss when he popped down to the Goldstone one night for a reserve match with Swansea — "just to take a look at a couple of my Irish kids."

"But within 10 minutes, I couldn't take my eyes off this little dark-haired Kevin Keegan lookalike. Same hunched shoulders. Same little steps."

Pace

"He was dinking and diving all over the place, causing problems. I had to get a programme to find out who he was — D Saunders."

Cattlin was so struck he made a 400-

mile round trip to Swansea for a second look in another reserve match.

"I watched from the terraces. I was the only one there. It had been a horrible drive, taking me hours. But within 20 minutes I was back in the car. I'd seen enough to confirm what I'd seen before."

"Here was a great player in the making. And with pace. That's what hurts teams."

"Great players with skill and no pace will struggle on off-days. But if you've got pace, you only need one break, even on those days."

"What I couldn't understand was why he was in Swansea's reserves. I asked around. There was talk of a tem-

Rail fare was just the ticket for superstar

perament problem. But I'd heard all that before. I like to find out these things myself. And I wanted him."

There was a snag: Swansea boss John Bond was asking £15,000.

Brighton, two years after raking in a bonanza from two FA Cup Finals with Manchester United, were all but broke. They couldn't even raise that miserable sum.

Bargain

"I was scared to death we'd lost him," Cattlin admits.

Then John Bond did something that will always haunt him. He gave Saunders a free trial. "We all make mistakes," says Cattlin. "Mine was Justin Fashanu."

"Dean had a rough time at Swansea. I think if I hadn't gone in for

him, he'd have gone out of the game. But sometimes you need a kick up the backside to toughen you up for life and that was his."

"We eventually got him for £19 — his rail fare from Swansea. But I made him produce his docket first before he got that!"

"I told him we'd make him a great player. That he wouldn't only help us get back to the First Division but into the top 10 and into Europe. And I still believe he could have."

Cattlin, Lancastrian son of a Rugby League pro, had pulled off the bargain of the decade and knew it. Yet one director sniffed: "Why have you gone and got another forward?"

Says Cattlin: "We put the smile back on Dean's face and he did everything I expected of him. He scored 20 goals."

Those Pommies are on the dole



MORE than a dozen former Wembley wonder boys will spend the summer polishing their medals and licking their wounds after being dumped on the free transfer list by their clubs.

Reputations and former glories counted for nothing as much seasoned professionals as Jimmy Case, Cyrille Regis and Frank Stapleton fell victim to the dreaded axe.

But what about Les Sealey and Gary O'Reilly? Little more than a year ago they were Wembley heroes — now they've been shown the door by Manchester United and Crystal Palace.

Here's a complete list of 302 Football League players released on free transfers this summer:

DIVISION ONE

Arsenal: Gus Caesar; James Carstairs; Charles Hartfield.
Aston Villa: Bernie Gallacher
Chelsea: Giles Jacobs
Coventry: Trevor Bartfield; Tony Harwood; Lee Middleton; Cyrille Regis.
C.Palace: Gary O'Reilly
Everton: Marcus Ebdon; Gary Powell; Neil Sang; Mark Wright
Leeds: Darren Edmonds; Neil Edwards; Darryl Franklin; Michael Knop; Jason Longstaff; Chris O'Donnell.
Liverpool: John Carroll; Wayne Harrison.
Luton: Stuart Brown; Gary Crawshaw; Mark McGonagle; Francis Richards; Richard Watkins; Steve Williams.
Man City: Simon Dyer; John Wills; Darren Wilson.
Man Utd: Tony Costa; Ralph Milne; Michael Pollitt; Roger Sallis; Les Sealey; Alan Tonge; David Wilson.
Norwich: Robert Taylor; Andy Theodosiou
Nottm For: Jason Fletcher; Steve McLoughlin.
Notts Co: None
Oldham: Gary Williams
QPR: Steve Crocker
Sheff Utd: Richard Harrison
Sheff Wed: Mark Dickinson; Sam Goodacre; David Lyckett; Lawrie Madden.
Soton: Jimmy Case (now Bournemouth); Kevin Moore.
Tottenham: None
West Ham: Paul Kelly; Allen McKnight; Ray Stewart.
Wimbledon: David Hudson; Matthew Pearson.

DIVISION TWO

Barnsley: None
Blackburn: John Millar; Neil Oliver; Frank Stapleton.
Brighton: David Coldwell; Steve Gating; Chris Lyons;
Brian McKenna; Adrian Owers; Steve Penney.
Bristol City: None
Bristol Rvs: Mark Hewitson; Chris McClean; Tony Sealy.
Cambridge: Steve Berryman; Mike Cook.
Charlton: Spencer Berham; Rosario Franco; Lee Harrison;
Mark Reid (now Celtic); Matthew Watts.
Derby: Ian Wilson
Grimsby: Gary Birdes
Ipswich: Phil Mitchell
Leicester: Gary Fitzpatrick; Gary Hyde; Andrew Jeffrey;
Marc North; Tony Spearman.

Middlesbrough: Lee Tucker
Millwall: Nicky Coleman; Alan Dowson; Kevin O'Callaghan.
Newcastle: John Burridge; Kevin Dillon; Mark McGhee.
Oxford: Richard Hill; Alan Judge.
Plymouth: Paul Smith
Portsmouth: Lee Darby; Lee Gosling; Jason Hall; Mike Turner; Chris White.
Port Vale: Matthew Booth; Kevin Finney.
Southend: John Cheesewright; Jason Cook
Sunderland: None
Swindon: None
Tranmere: Gary Bouress; Mark McCarrick; Scott Taylor.
Watford: Gerry Harrison
Wolves: David Butler; Stuart Evans; Neville Fennel; Paul Jones; Paul Stancliffe; Ley Stobart.

DIVISION THREE

Birmingham: John Deakin; Robert Hopkins.
Bolton: Gary Brown; Ian Stevens.
Bournemouth: None
Bradford: Andy Clarkson; Mark Jules; Martin Pattison;
Craig Taylor.
Brentford: Laurence Betty; John Buttigieg; Allan Cockram;
Clive Goodyear.
Bury: Paul Atkin; Ian Bennett; Aidan Davison; Shaun Dunn;
Andy Feeley; Andy Gayle; Gareth Price; Mark Simms.
Chester: Keith Bertchins; Martin Lane; Alan Reeves.
Darlington: Phil Linacre
Exeter: Jim McNichol; Andy Wright.
Fulham: Michael Cole; Gordon Davies; Shaun Gore;
Richard Langley; Tony Parks.
Hartlepool: Paul Clark; Brian Cox; Ken Davies.
Huddersfield: Jason Byrne; Steve Hardwick; Peter McGuire; Mark Wilson.
Hull: Mark Cooper; Rob Gawthorpe; Gareth Roberts; Mike Smith; Gwyn Thomas; Les Thompson.
Leyton Orient: Carl Hoddle; Alan Hull; Lloyd Moncur;
Geoff Pike; John Sinton.
Peterboro: George Berry; Paul Bradshaw; Gerry McElhinney; Keith Oakes; Steve Osborne.
Preston: Steve Anderton; Richard Cunningham; Steve Harper; Sammy McIlroy; Mike Rathbone; John Thomas; Roy Tunks.
Reading: Phil Burns; George Friel; Steve Moran.
Shrewsbury: Kenny Clements; Gary Shaw.
Stockport: David Bancroft; Steve Bullock; Chris Downes;
Chris Luchetti; Ian McInerney; Mark Payne; Paul Robertson.

Stoke: Cliff Carr; Vince Hilaire; David Noble; Mark Sale;
Derek Statham; Mickey Thomas.
Swansea: David D'Auria; Phil Evans.
Torquay: Alan Hay; Steve Kidd; John Morrison; Russell Musker.
WBA: Colin Anderson; Scott Colcombe.
Wigan: Phil Hughes; Stuart Phoenix.

DIVISION FOUR

Aldershot: Dale Banton; Steve Beeks; David Coles; James Murphy; Jerry Williams.
Blackpool: Tony Diamond; Ryan James; Dean Kay; Gordon Owen; Simon Robinson.
Burnley: Ray Deakin; Neil Grewcock; Nigel Smith; John Smyth.
Cardiff: Leigh Barnard; Chris Fry; Phil Heath; Steve Hoekings; Jon Morgan; Les Stephens; Chris Summers.
Carlisle: Eamonn Elliott; Craig Goldsmith; John Halpin; Nigel Saddington.
Chesterfield: Calvin Plummer; Andy Rolph.
Crewe: Paul Clayton; Tony Nighy.
Doncaster: Steve Adams; Vince Brockie; Andy Holmes.
Gillingham: Ian Docker; Ivan Haines; Ron Hillyard; Peter Johnson; David Jordan; Gary Kimble.
Halifax: Mitch Cook; Dean Martin.
Hereford: Chris Hemming; Mark Jones; Mark A Jones; Ian Mitchell; Stewart Phillips; Marcus Friday; Colin Robertson; Paul Tester; Paul Wheeler.
Lincoln: Dean Crombie; Mark Wallington.
Maidstone: Karl Elsey; Steve Galliers; Chris Pullen.
Mansfield: Trevor Christie; David Hunt; Tony Lowery; Steve Prindville; Mark Smalley.
Northampton: Steve Barry; Julian Capone; Matthew Carr; Steve Hall; Wayne Williams.
Rochdale: Chris Bundred; William Brans; David Cole;
Jason Dawson; Andy Duggan; Steve Elliott; Wayne Goodison; John Hill.
Rotherham: Andy Bamsley; Mark Dempsey; Stuart Ford;
Gary Forrest; Billy Russell.
Scarborough: George Oghani
Scunthorpe: John Bramhall; Percy Cotton; Dave Cowling;
Peter Litchfield; Kevin Taylor; Gordon Tucker.
Walsall: Graeme Forbes; Ron Grant; Chris Hutchings;
Adrian Littlejohn; Kenny Mower; Willie Naughton; Peter Skipper; Phil Whitehouse.
Wrexham: Geoff Hunter; Bob Jones; David O'Gorman;
Steve Weaver; Darren Wright.
York: Richard Crossley; Iain Dunn; Simon Weatherhead;
Mark Wood.



Here it is — the best soccer action show of the week

£3m DEANO FOR 19 QUID!



It's was at Newcastle, we were 1-0 up and hanging on with five minutes left when Dean got the ball out on the left.

"He cut inside John Anderson, then young Paul Gascoigne, and struck a 35-yarder which hit the net before John Burridge could even move... brilliant."

Cattlin was so excited with his find, he rang Mike England, then Wales manager.

"I told him I knew he had Ian Rush and Mark Hughes, but that here was a lad who ran around like a headless chicken at times but had great potential and ought to be in his squad."

Bubbly

England's reply stunned him. Yes, he knew all about Dean. Yes, he'd seen him. No, he didn't rate him.

Blunt-talking Cattlin wouldn't take that nonsense. England gave way, called up the prodigy and then shook the Brighton boss again.

The gist of his phone call was that Dean was a bit of a playboy and he didn't want him around.

Says

Chris Cattlin

Boss who saved Saunders from soccer's scrapheap

"I couldn't believe it. Dean's a bright, bubbly character. He likes company and a couple of beers but that's it."

"I called him in ready to drag him over the coals, but he insisted that he'd done nothing out of the ordinary, and I believe him. Maybe it was just Mike's way of saying he didn't fancy him."

Debt

Amazingly, England is not alone there. After Cattlin left Brighton, his replacement, Alan Mullery, nearly drove Dean mad by sticking him out on the left wing.

Current boss Barry Lloyd preferred Ric-

hard Tiltman, a striker from Maidstone, who is now playing non-League for Crawley.

Lloyd sold him to Oxford for a paltry £60,000, utterly disgusting Cattlin.

"I went out and had a few beers when I heard that," he says. "They say they needed the money, but they obviously didn't rate him. Otherwise why didn't they have some cash conditions in the sale?"

And he adds: "Isn't it ironic that Brighton are £3 million in debt—just about exactly what Dean's going for now?"

Cattlin, 44, has been out of the game since Brighton sacked him in

1986 when they were sixth in the Second Division. He went for what they termed gross misconduct.

The extent of the charge was one verbal volley at a linesman, swearing at one of his players and missing a dinner in Worthing.

Fans went on protest marches and he went to court.

Finally, embarrassed Brighton settled three years later, giving him everything he wanted. A weird episode which left him soured.

"I love the game," he says, "but I thought if this is what it comes down to, I don't want to be part of it."

He turned down offers and stayed in town to make his fortune in rock and property. He lives in a 1930s mansion in Hove's millionaire row and last week raised £150,000 for the Variety Club.

He still loves the club and believes it to "have more potential than any other provincial club."

I wouldn't be surprised if one day he went out and proved it by buying it.

But no matter what he buys, he knows he'll never get another bargain like Deano...



Derby's Dean Saunders.

DEAN SAUNDERS: headed for Europe with Liverpool this season.



CHRIS WOODS: will someone buy him?

Woods in the cold

NO ONE wants England's No 1 keeper. That's the numbing fact facing Chris Woods.

The snubbed Rangers hero goes into crisis talks with his advisers today or tomorrow.

The insulting news awaiting Woods is that not one club, in Britain or abroad, has shown more than mild interest in the £1m-rated keeper.

That will be another shattering blow for the blond giant. Until this summer his playing worry was beating Arsenal's David Seaman in the

battle for the England jersey.

He seemed to have taken a step towards that when keeping three clean sheets out of four for Graham Taylor on the controversial tour Down Under.

He also pulled off the save of his life to prevent England's humiliation in Australia.

Sleep

But his world was overturned when his returning present was finding Rangers had paid £1m for Scotland's No 1, Andy Gorm.

Woods went on a long holiday to Ame-

rica in an effort to get his mind together. He returned on Friday jetlagged.

But he did and fears that he's about to stage a rebellion against Rangers. "I will be going in for training tomorrow," he said. "And that's all I want to say."

But the 24-capped keeper knows he must move on soon or hand back the England slot to Seaman.

England are only two months away from their next big game, a Wembley friendly with Germany. And Taylor is unlikely to hand the No 1 job to a club reserve.

ABSW BEST FOR SOCCER ACTION

LIVERPOOL IN A SIGNING SPREE



LIVERPOOL have signed Dean Saunders.

■ And David Batty and Paul Parker are lined up for another sensational Kop summer swoop.

The £2.9m record deal for the Welsh wonder follows the £2.2m move for Mark Wright.

■ But Graeme Sou-

ness is still not satisfied in his bid to put Liverpool back on top of the heap and challenge Arsenal.

He wants Parker to go alongside Wright in an all-England centre back partnership.

■ And he's expected to go in for QPR's £1.5m-rated, mighty midget this week.

There's also talk

around Anfield of a fresh move for Batty.

■ And prising the midfield terrier from Leeds could cost as much as Saunders.

Kenny Dalglish was knocked back when he tried for soccer's nearest equivalent to Steve McMahon.

■ But Saunders' arrival allows Souness to put together a cash-plus-Peter Beardsley tempter for Howard Wilkinson.

Wilkinson believes he needs only a class striker to complete a title-challenging outfit at Elland Road.

■ And Beardsley and £1m for Batty could satisfy Liverpool and Leeds.

The need for Batty has been made urgent by the knee injury to McMahon, which still leaves uncertain his return date.

■ Meanwhile, Saunders last night talked about his agony of having to choose between Liverpool, the

Parker and Batty next for Souness

club where father Roy was a star, Everton and Forest.

He said: "I suppose people would kill to be in the position I'm in.

■ "But it's been ridiculously difficult to make a decision between them.

"But I've said I will make that decision on Sunday and I will let Brian Clough, Howard Kendall and Graeme Souness know before I make it public.

■ "They've all been magnificent to deal with and I'm sorry I have to disappoint two of them."

But you can take it that his decision will be in Liverpool's favour. It was!



MARK WRIGHT IN ACTION

Big Ron swoops!

RON ATKINSON is ready to make a £1.5 million double deal to strengthen Aston Villa's defence.

■ He wants Leeds centre-half Chris Whyte and Liverpool left-back David Burrows.

Big Ron has given Whyte a high rating since bringing him back from the US when managing West Brom. England Under-21 defender Burrows was also at West Brom before his £600,000 move to Liverpool.

■ Atkinson needs a new central defender because Derek Mountfield has still not agreed a new contract.

Liverpool would be reluctant to sell Burrows. Graeme Sou-

ness can't afford to let class Englishmen leave now that they're back in Europe and face restrictions on foreign players.

■ Nottingham Forest have moved for Millwall's Teddy Sheringham to make up for losing Dean Saunders to Liverpool.

They have offered £1.7m for the ambitious hotshot. The snag is Millwall want the £2m they'd agreed with Blackburn.

■ Rovers might have more luck in their search for a big name striker when they go for Bayern Munich's £800,000-rated Alan McInally.

GARY MEGSON has refused new terms with Manchester City and now waits to see whether Norwich will come back in for him.

Slater hits the top

SOCCEROO Robbie Slater has shelved plans to attempt to break into English football after his French club, Lens, were thrown a lifeline on Saturday and admitted into the French First Division this coming season.

The French season starts this weekend and Lens will be amongst the 20 entrants though they were beaten by Toulouse in a promotion play-off only seven weeks ago.

Lens were promoted and Rennes saved from relegation when the French League's Federal Council rejected appeals from former Division One clubs Nice and Brest.

They had been demoted because they went into receivership with debts of about \$13 million each.

In French football, a club automatically goes down one division when it goes into receivership, as Bordeaux did before Nice and Brest suffered the same fate.

A delighted Slater

told ABSW that he was 'over the moon' at the late-breaking news.

"Together with the whole of Lens, a hot-bed of soccer in the north of France, I was praying for our team to be included in this season's First Division.

"We deserved it as we had come awfully close to gaining promotion only a few weeks

ago," Slater said.

"I can hardly wait for this weekend when I make my debut in the First Division.

"All the players are fit as the Second Division was also to kick off this weekend, so we are in good condition already.

"But returning to the First Division after an absence of three sea-

sons will mean that Lens will be playing in front of home crowds of 40,000-plus again as we did in the promotion play-offs."

The French League's late decision is a God-send for Slater, who will now be able to showcase his talents in one of the highest profile football competitions in the world.

Slater and Laurent Boli, brother of Marseille star Basile Boli, were Lens' top players in the Second Division and both are again expected to be in the limelight in top flight company this season.

LOU GAUTIER

Lions eye Scots ace

MILLWALL are poised to swoop for Hearts star John Colquhoun this week.

■ The Lions are favourites to stave off opposition from London rivals West Ham for the former Celtic winger.

But the price could end up being decided by a tribunal as Hearts want £600,000 for a player who only cost them £35,000.

■ Colquhoun has been one of the Premier Division's most consistent performers.

Middlesbrough and Sunderland have also enquired but Aberdeen have lost interest.



ROBBIE SLATER: parlez-vous français?

THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, July 20

★ World Soccer — 5pm

Main match: Holland v USSR — a look back at the final of the 1988 European Championship in West Germany.

★ ★ ★

Sunday, July 21

★ European Football — 11.00am

Main match: USA v Republic of Ireland — a friendly game played in front of 51,000 spectators in Boston, the most Irish of all American cities.

ACTION SPECIAL: ABSW — best in the world for soccer